The Middlebury Campus

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Women's Studies and Molecular Biology majors, film/video track proposed as curriculum additions

By Catherine Cardwell

In an effort to present students with more academic options, the Educational Council is considering proposals for two new majors and a new track for theater majors. Faculty members have proposed both a Molecular Biology and a Women's Studies major, as well as a film and video track.

Pam Small, assistant professor of Biology, and Maggie O'Brien, associate professor of Biology, were key figures in the development of the proposal for a Molecular Biology major. Small said the major would be "an arrangement to give people more options. It would be combining Biochemistry and the cellular part of Biology into one program," giving students an exposure to Molecular Genetics and a good Chemistry background.

The program would also strongly encourage senior students to do thesis work and get involved in the lab on their own. "We have found that often Biochemistry students are not prepared well enough in Molecular Genetics when they reach Graduate School," she explained, "just as Biology students are not fully prepared in Chemistry after they graduate. We really felt the Molecular Biology was something we were lacking."

The proposal for the Women's Studies Major is also designed to fill a gap in the selection of majors. The proposal suggests creating a major out of the present Women's Studies Concentration, according to Assistant Professor of Music Susan Cook, chairperson of the subcommittee investigating the proposal.

"The thing that is so interesting is the interdepartmental/interdisplinary side of it," Cook said. Students would be required to take a variety of courses in different departments which would focus on women's contributions to those fields. Because this would be an interdepartmental study, the program would be headed by a Program Director as is the Environmental Studies Major.

Music Professor Susan Cook

"People are really joining hands across departments in this major," Cook said.

"Instituting a program like this would show that Middlebury is trying to keep their critical inquiry and intellectual inquiry stimulated," she said. "This program would make us equal with other schools we compare ourself to, like Williams, Amherst, and Oberlin. It would bring us up to date and in line in a field which is at least twenty years old."

Professor of Theater and Art Ted Perry suggested the creation of a film/video track in the theater department. This proposal would unite various faculty members and allow them to teach their subject via film and video, such as American Culture or Philosophy.

"The purpose is to broaden the scope of film offerings so as to include different perspectives," according to Associate Professor of English John Bertolini, a member of the Curriculum Committee.

The Curriculum Committee and the Educational Council will first look at the requirements the program necessitates, whether there is a difference in the level of introductory vs upper level courses, and if special senior work is required. The number of faculty and students who would be involved in the program is also considered. The Curriculum Committee and the Educational Council will present their recommendations to the faculty in the spring.

(photo by Meredith Neider)

Pam Smith and her 8-month old son Dylan make up one of several student families at Middlebury this year. See story page 3.

Judicial Council structure and focus questioned after recent assault case

By Page Dickinson

A recent Judicial Council decision on a sexual assault case has led to some questioning of the Judicial Council's structure. Marnie Cunningham, the Residence Hall Assistant in Stewart Hall, is considering developing a proposal to change the structure of the Judicial Council in order to bridge a communication gap between the members of the Council and the deans, she said.

Cunningham's "disillusionment" with the Council stems from several cases in which they handed out "almost flippant" punishments, she said.

A recent sexual assault case involving a resident of Stewart Hall also provoked Cunningham to question the system, she said. In the case, a freshman woman was assaulted in her room by a male who climbed into bed with her in the middle of the night, according to the victim's roommate.

A male student was charged with the assault, but the charge could not be sustained because the identification was not positive, according to Dean of Students Karl Lindholm.

Though the evidence was "circumstantial," Cunningham said, "with common sense," the Council should have been able to "put the facts together" to make a decision of guilt or innocence.

The problem, according to Cunningham, involved interaction of the deans in the case. The deans believed the case to be resolved one way, she said, but the victim's Junior Counselor felt their decision was inappropriate. The conflict resulted from "not enough communication between the two groups," Cunningham said. The case involved "misunderstanding from the word go," she said.

Overall, Cunningham said, punishments decided by the Judicial Council are "too light for the real seriousness of what's going on." In the real world, she said, some of the cases tried by the Council would be assaults. "There is no reason Middlebury should be exempt from due punishment," she said.

The division of the student Council and the deans into two separate bodies in case hearings is the root of the communication problem, Cunningham said.

At present, when a student is charged, he or she is given the option of having the matter heard by the Judicial Council or the Dean of Students, according to the handbook.

Cunningham feels that the two bodies should be combined into one panel. Because the Judicial Council deals with students, faculty and staff in its hearings, there "needs to be representation from those groups" on the Council, she said.

The students on the Judicial Council would benefit from the experience of older faculty members as voting members of the Council, Cunningham said. In the current system, the Council has a faculty advisor who does not vote, but only ensures that due process is followed.

The students members of the Council "have an idealistic view of the judicial process," Cunningham said. The victims' rights "sometimes become secondary" because the Council is so concerned with the process.

The deans, however, "seem more willing to see repercussions" of their decisions, Cunningham said. They see "the big picture," she said.

Political Science Professor Gary Meyers, faculty advisor to the Judicial Council, disagrees that the deans and the Judicial Council are not communicating well. Instead, he said, they are "on the same wavelength."

Communication problems exist between the Council and the community, however, because of the confidentiality involved in hearings, he said. "We have a good idea of what's going on," he said, "but we can't communicate with the campus at large."

To move towards increased communication of this kind, the Council would have to "sacrifice the rights of confidentiality," Meyers said.

The Council faces a "difficult task" in trying to serve two roles, one involving individual cases and one as a "channel of communication," Meyers said. The Council is "often caught between trying to do justice to the individual and trying to communicate to the community," he said.

The sense that there is a lack of communication stems from a changing attitude on campus, Meyers said. "We've entered a new era" with respect to the role of both the Judicial Council and the deans, he said, much of which he attributes to the raise in the drinking age several years ago.

While not all the Judicial Council cases involve alcohol, he said, the issue has increased tension between generations on campus. Many cases "revolve around this feeling of resentment," Meyers said.

In response to Cunningham's argument that the students on the Judicial Council are overly concerned with process, Meyers said the Council is indeed more aware of due process this year due to issues which relate to past cases. As a result, he said, the Council is getting more sensitive cases, ones which might have gone to the deans in years past.

One issue which arises for the Council when trying to abide by the handbook is the adequacy of the book itself. Cunningham said the handbook is "vague" and uses "elevated terms." She would like to see, in place of the current language, a list of formal charges which students could bring against others, she said.

The handbook is "barely adequate" to cover the majority of the Judicial Council's cases, Meyers said. Problems with the handbook are "inevitable," however, he said, because the problems the campus faces are always changing.

Associate Dean of Students Arlinda Ardister attributes some of the Judicial Council's communication problem to the changing body of students on the Council. "There is not always a carry over of knowledge," she said.

The deans are "seeking to assist the Council to develop this kind of history for itself," Ardister said. The two groups are "working together in an effective way to resolve areas of miscommunication," she said.

College Shorts

By Jean Berghaus

Homosexual couple denied housing at Berkeley

The University of California at Berkeley, citing legal uncertainties and a shortage of university owned housing for married couples, has turned down requests for gay and lesbian couples to occupy such housing.

The request has been approved by the Associated Students' Senate at Berkeley at the urging of gay couples. The couples charged that the university's policy on married–housing discriminates against gays and lesbians.

Chancellor of the Berkeley campus, Ira Michael Heyman, stated that the state has provided no legal authority for recognizing personal relationships, other than those of marriage. He felt that allowing same–sex couples to occupy married housing would definitely cause problems.

Students protest campus animal research lab

Six people climbed a 160–foot construction crane at the University of California at Berkeley last week and they said that they would remain there until the university agreed to abandon work on a new animal research laboratory.

University officials said they would not negotiate with the protestors.

The three women and three men remained atop the crane on the site of a new six–story genetics and plant biology building, which is adjacent to the target of their protest, the $14 million Northwest Animal Facility. Work was being delayed on both projects because of the demonstration, university officials reported.

The protestors ignored repeated orders to abandon their position and demanded that the university halt construction of the laboratory, which they said would increase animal abuse.

Stanford official bans computer joke file

An administrator at Stanford University has provoked charges of censorship by baning a computer file of ethnic, racial and sexual jokes that had been available on the university's main computer center.

The file, which served no educational or instructional purpose, is part of the data base on Usenet, one of hundreds of computer networks that the university subscribes to.

Ralph Gorin, director of Academic Information Resources at the university, said he had deleted the joke file because it served no educational purpose and was "offensive" especially at time when the university it trying to promote racial harmony.

John McCarthy, a professor of computer science, said he and others were preparing a petition to Donald Kennedy, Stanford's president, to argue that the computer is a means of communication and banning that file constitutes unwarranted censorship.

SUNY Dean of Students received music box bomb

A bomb in the form of a music box was delivered to the dean of students at the State University of New York College at Geneseo. The bomb could have caused death or serious injury.

The box arrived with a typewritten note telling the recipient to plug it in and push the button to hear music. Dean Kathleen Hayes–Sugarman was suspicious and instead contacted the University's public safety office. The bomb unit of the nearby county sheriff's office removed the device and destroyed it with a water cannon.

A college spokesman stated that the FBI and officers from local and state police are trying to determine the source of the bomb. A disgruntled student or a resident from the area are prime candidates.

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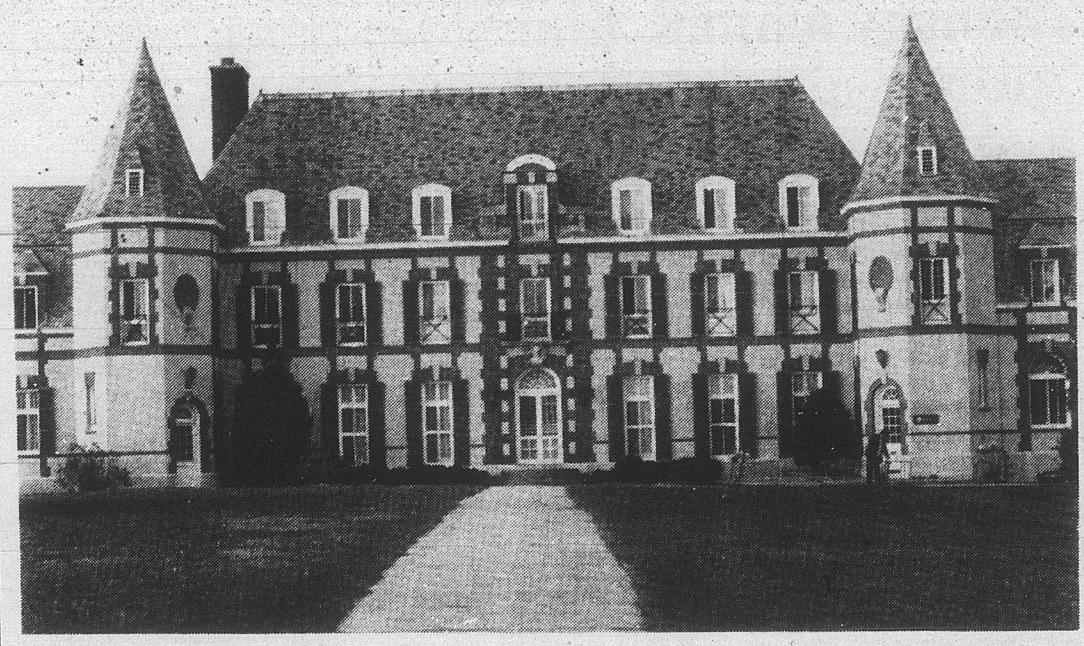
NEWS

Le Chateau to change focus



Le Chateau: will new requirements change the image? *(file photo)*

By Mara Gorman

After extended discussions with residents of the Château, the French Department has decided to modify the living conditions of the dormitory. Beginning with the 1989-1990 school year the Château will no longer be restricted to students who want to speak French.

While the third floor will remain French, the second floor will be a theme floor for English-speaking students interested in international studies, according to Professor of French and Director of the Language Schools, Edward Knox.

This decision is in response to the dwindling number of students who want to live in an entirely French-speaking dorm. The Paris program has become so popular in recent years that the college no longer has the same number of students that want to live in the Château.

"This arrangement is meant to provide a chance for students who are interested in the same things to live together, without placing a restriction on the language that they speak," said Nancy O'Connor, Professor of French. She also stressed that if students on the second floor want to speak French, they will be welcome to, and that any other language will be acceptable as well.

The Château will still have a French-speaking house director, and the language tables in the dining room will not be changed at all, said O'Connor.

The focus in the dormitory is meant to be international and the language department will present videos and speakers during the year. Both Knox and O'Connor hoped to stimulate the students' interest and to provide them with some additional information for their studies. Knox said that he hopes that "faculty and students will be able to develop a program of activities that will make the Château the center of internationally-oriented activities on campus."

Knox and O'Connor both stressed that the changes have nothing to do with the negative image attached to the Château. "We are simply responding to the students' needs and desires" said O'Connor.

Knox added, "We believe this new format will work to the benefit of a larger pool of students while preserving the integrity of a French-only space at the same time. The Château is one of our most pleasant and elegant dormitories and is larger than the available number of students who wish to live in a French house."

They do not feel that the Château deserves the stigma that has been attached to it since the incidents of name calling last autumn which labeled the Château as a place where homosexuals live. They also said that the entire French Department takes great offense at the fact that Château residents are ridiculed or harassed.

Any student interested in living on either floor of the Château must fill out an application, which is available in the Dean of Students' office or in the French Department office in Sunderland. Selection will be based on the student's interest in international studies, their experience with living abroad, and what courses they have taken. The forms must be submitted to the French Department by March 22. Any questions should be addressed to Edward Knox or Nancy O'Connor.

SGA considers option of computerized registration system to ease typical rush

By Antonia DeVegh

The Student Government Association approved a plan for computer registration by a narrow margin at its last meeting. According to John Emerson, dean of the College, the idea was developed in response to "a certain amount of disgruntlement felt by faculty and students about the way registration takes place in McCullough."

An ad hoc committee formulated the on-line computer approach by which students would register from microcomputers communicating with the administrative computer system through digital telephone connections, explained Emerson. The committee consisted of nine different faculty and staff members, including several deans. The basic objectives of the plan are as follows:

1. In September 1989, freshmen would register on-line from their Junior Counselor's room on Saturday morning, September 9. The College would need to furnish each J.C. with a microcomputer.

2. All classes would register on-line for Winter and Spring Terms. Freshmen would register with their J.C.'s again. The other classes would use public microcomputers in Voter Hall and student owned microcomputers in the residence halls.

3. The on-line system would provide each student registering with information concerning which courses were closed, which were nearing full enrollment and how many spaces each course reserved for majors and concentrations.

The computer would create waiting lists for full classes, automatically assigning students to a class if space became available. Individually, Students would be able to check their progress in the completion of their majors and fulfillment of graduation requirements against their academic records. All course offerings and information contained in the General Catalogue would be on-line.

The new system would duplicate electronically the existing registration process as closely as possible, increasing productivity and lessening anxiety. Faculty members, although not present would assist in advising students about courses, as they do now.

Faculty advisors would be required to sign their advisees registration cards which would be preprinted with the day and time when the students could begin registration. The present priority system of upperclassmen first and freshmen last will be retained as well as the random selection for registration within a class.

Some concerns raised expressed by SGA members about computer registration included the undue influence Junior Counselors might have on which courses freshmen choose and the diminishment of personal interaction with faculty members about course selection.

After a President's Staff meeting earlier this week, Olin Robison gave his contingent approval of the plan, said Emerson. The president is waiting for a few people from the ad hoc committee to report on a similar system used at Wesleyan University, said Emerson. After determining how helpful the system is for Wesleyan, said Emerson, the president will decide whether or not to support the change.

Student families at Middlebury face unique issues and responses from colleagues, discover ways to get by without special facilities

By Ann Dahlquist

Out of the two thousand students at Middlebury, there are only three student families actually living on campus: two married couples and a single parent and her infant son. The college has no definite policy concerning families, since "it is more common for families to live off-campus or to look for a different type of school," according to Dean of Students Karl Lindholm. How, then, is this small minority coping with both personal and academic demands?

Kyoung Ha and Jinah Woo do not feel that their marriage has suffered at Middlebury. "It is not hard to be married," said Kyoung Ha, a 28-year old Korean diplomat working for the Korean Foreign Ministry.

His 27-year old wife agrees. "We don't have any problems here," she said.

Kyoung Ha and Jinah met in Korea and dated for eight years before getting married last summer. The couple live in Seoul. Jinah chose to accompany her husband to the United States when he was sent here to study English for a period of two years. Every year Korea sends twenty diplomats to foreign countries, and this year nine of the twenty came to America, where they are attending various New England colleges.

Kyoung Ha has already received his degree from the university in Korea and is therefore considered an adjunct student at Middlebury. Jinah is not a student here, but is auditing a French literature course and writing a thesis in preparation for her doctorate. She manages to keep quite busy, but wishes Middlebury offered a special course for foreigners in English conversation.

The Woos live in the North Dorms, where Jinah complains about the small room and the inconveniency of preparing meals, but she feels that if they had an apartment, they "would be too isolated from student life." She says that she "prefers this life" to off-campus alternatives.

"We want to live with other students," says Kyoung Ha. He feels that since he and his wife are foreign, this close interaction with people in the dormitory permits them to become "more integrated into the American culture."

"Only a few students know we are married," explained Kyoung Ha, saying that most people "accept the marriage." He finds campus life "much better than I expected."

"We have many friends here," added Jinah. "Being married has helped us to get to know people." Both the Woos commend Director of Residential Life Frank Kelley for his help in arranging their housing and making them feel comfortable. "People are generally kind to us," said Jinah.

Gary Nicholson '89 and Amy Cheydleur '90 were married on January 14 in Sunderland Memorial Chapel, but are planning a formal ceremony in Mead Chapel in March. They now share a double in Painter.

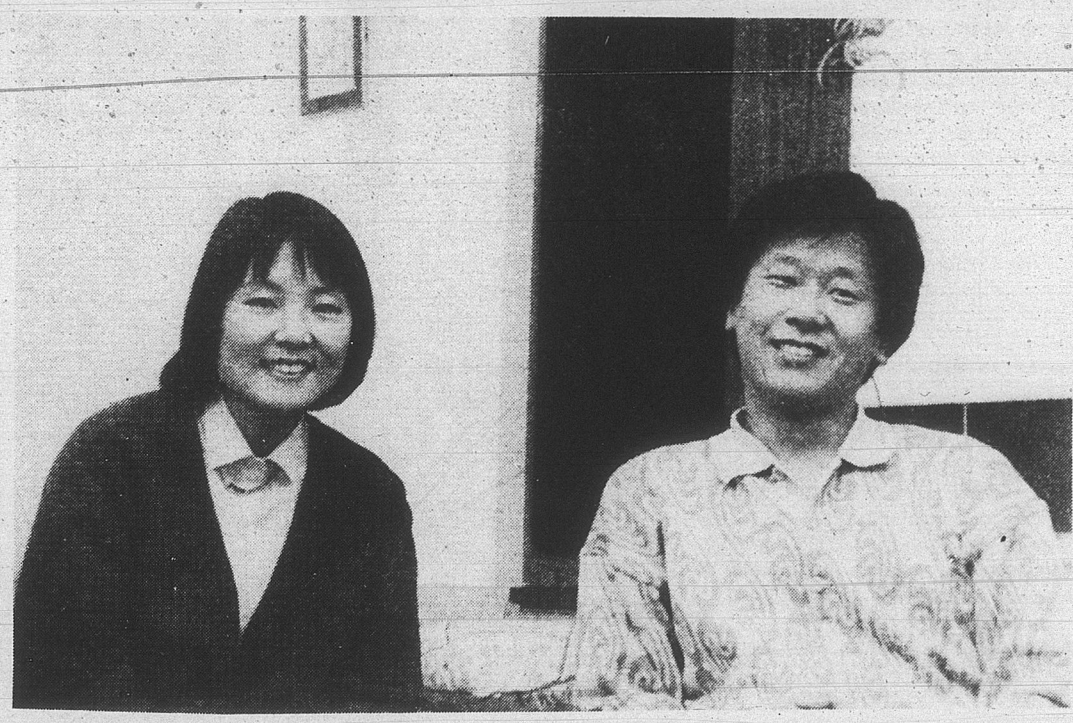
The Nicholsons met at a Christian Fellowship meeting during the fall of Amy's freshman year and became engaged shortly afterwards. "It was getting more and more frustrating not to be married," said Amy. "We've wanted to for a long time."

When they informed the administration of their decision, "they gave us no trouble at all," said Amy. The couple did encounter some adverse reactions from the student body, however.

"We really freaked a lot of people out," said Gary. "Some think we're too young."

"People are either happy for us or shocked to death," he said. Yet in general he feels that "student reaction has been positive."

The feeling that people "are not supposed to be married before they finish college" is "not worth worrying about," stated Amy. "It hasn't really been that much of an issue for us."



Married students Kyoung Ha and Jinah Woo

"Having Dylan has changed my priorities. Academics don't seem as important any more."

-Pam Smith

Pam Smith '89 found herself in a much different situation when she approached the Deans last year and told them she was pregnant. "I was terrified," she said. Yet she "encountered no problems" and felt that the Deans were "open to helping me in whatever way they could."

For financial reasons, Pam could not live off campus, nor did she want to. Because she had mistakenly declared herself a dependent freshman year, her parents incomes were still considered by the College in her financial situation, even though they do not contribute to the cost of her education.

Because the financial aid rules were changed to require that 70% of a student's summer income go towards his/her tuition, Pam thought she would have to leave Middlebury. Yet since she now has a child, the college made an exception and allowed her to change her status to "independent." Pam finds it ironic that she probably wouldn't have been able to come here if she hadn't had a child.

Pam and her eight-month old son Dylan live in Hillcrest, where she is a house director. She works in the Sociology department and is currently writing her senior thesis. Pam finds that "the students have all been really supportive," especially the ones in her dormitory. "People are pretty quiet," she says. "I'm warned if there will be a party."

"Having Dylan has changed my priorities," said Pam. "Academics don't seem as important anymore." She feels her professors have been very understanding. The hardest thing for her is finding reliable sitters, so she brings Dylan to all her classes. "Teachers are a little uneasy at first," she said. "But then they're fine."

Pam feels that "a lot of people are concerned" about her situation, but not in a negative way. "Everyone's been great, and I'm really appreciative," she concluded.

Frank Kelley, Director of Residential Life, has spent much time with both the Woos and the Smiths, and has gotten to be "very friendly" with them, he said.

"We welcome them," Kelley said. "Personally, I enjoy having them here very much." He feels that "it's nice to see this level of reality [on campus]."

Kelley acknowledged that Middlebury does not have "outstanding facilities" for families as some larger universities do, but explained that "Middlebury accommodates people to the best of its ability."

Dean Lindholm also found that Middlebury is receptive to families living on-campus, but "it's not something you plan for," he said. "The problem is a practical one," Lindholm stated, explaining that the student body is homogeneous by age and that "residence halls don't make [many] physical concessions to families."

The College also does not have a program for part-time students. "There is not much in the way of special plans," said Lindholm, but points out that older students who have families can also qualify for financial aid.

Lindholm emphasized that the college is "in no way opposed" to families on campus "if these practical circumstances can be worked out."

"I like having students who have other obligations than average students," said Lindholm. "They have a different lifestyle, and I admire them for being able to exist and be productive in this atmosphere."

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Hot, Sexy, Safe, and Fun

By Lelia Senter

An energetic comedienne and Middlebury graduate invited students to join her in the fight against AIDS by learning how to practice "safer" sex at her lecture entitled "Hot, Sexy, and Safer" on Tuesday night.

The posters, showing a militant baby punk wearing a shirt with "Safer Sex" scrawled across it, drew a full audience to Dana to hear lecturer Suzanne Landolphi.

The Center for Counseling and Human Relations, the Parton Health Center, the office of the chaplain, the Human Relations Committee, and Delta Upsilon sponsored the presentation.

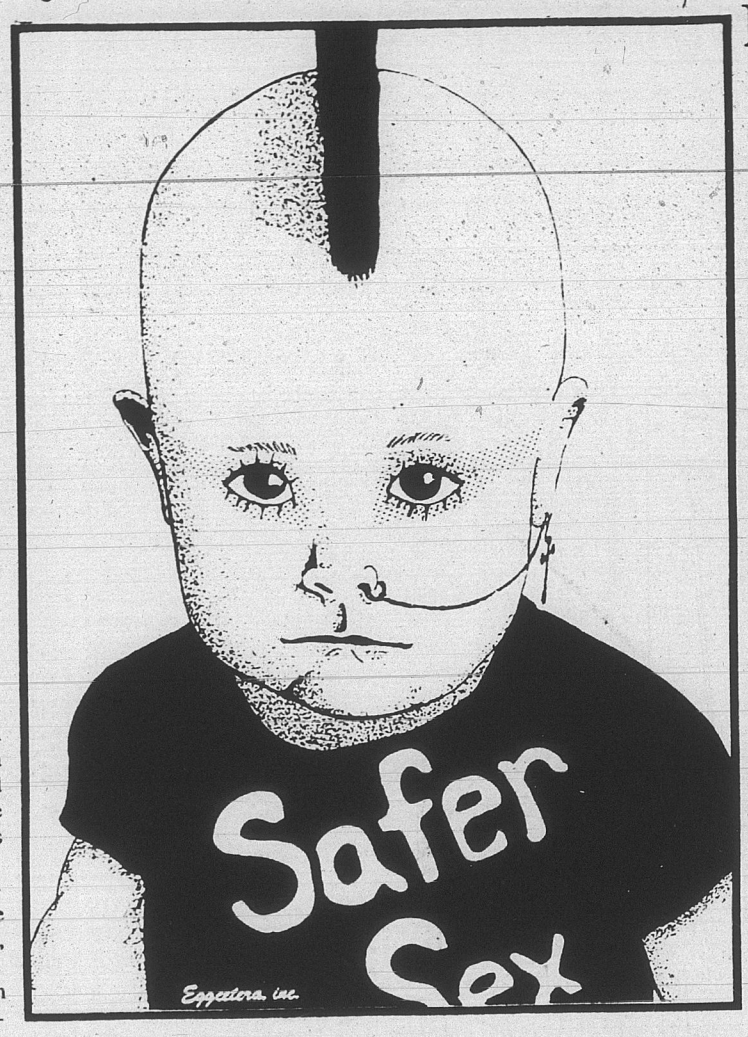
Marianna McShane, representing the Counciling Center, introduced the speaker, describing her work as health educator, director and producer of several Public Service announcements about AIDS, and member of the Boston AIDS Action Committee.

Instead of stepping from the wings, the jean-clad educator with big silver earrings jumped from a seat in the middle section and started talking as she bounded around the auditorium. People in aisle seats seemed a little nervous, because audience participation was commandeered at random. Late-comers were cordially welcomed with "Hi, guys, we were just talking about you!"

Landolphi began the lecture with vocabulary terms, assuring the audience, "There will be no quiz on thi afterwards." She also established tha for the hour, no judgments would be made on the basis of color, family backgound, or sexual orientation, because AIDS doesn't discriminate, she said.

Landolphi chose to leave statistics and details about dying from AIDS out of her lecture. "I don't believe anyone makes any changes in life, I mean lasting changes, out of fear," she said.

Although her presentation was light hearted she added, "Within



five years everyone in this room will know, and love, someone who is HIV positive or who is dying from AIDS." The humorous presentation was put aside for a minute to get across her message that everyone must strive for safer sex if they don't want to bury friends and loved ones.

But that doesn't mean no sex, she said but it only requires a different attitude towards sex and intercourse, which, she stressed, involves greater communication.

She told the audience, "Here's a statistic. There are 2862 ways to get sexually satisfied without intercourse." She emphasized "hot, sexy, and safer" alternatives to sexual practices which she termed "risky" in light of knowledge about transmission of the AIDS virus.

Landolphi ended the lecture about preservation of health in the prevention of AIDS, and called for "five healthy volunteers" to challenge her in a push-up contest. She jumped up, triumphant, after fifty push-ups, and yelled, "Guess what? I'll be thirty-nine tomorrow!"

Minority panel: On rural life

By Todd Capute

Four successful black professionals spoke of their experiences in predominantly white, rural schools as part of an InterFraternity Council and Black Student Union co-sponsored panel discussion last Thursday. Entitled "Black Life on Rural Campuses--is there a Difference?" the panel was conceived by IFC and BSU member Ian Bolden.

Frank Bolden, an attorney and Vice President of the Corporate Staff of Johnson and Johnson, opened the presentation. He related his experiences during 1959-63 when he attended the University of Vermont. Bolden labeled this period the "Post-Brown Era," referring to the 1954 Supreme Court decision banning segregation in public schools. Because he was one of only four black students in his class, Bolden likened his position to that of a "pioneer," and cited his pre-college perception of the white community.

"In the society where [I] lived . . . it was obvious that everything was controlled by whites," said Bolden. "I came to the school to find out how whites lived, how they made money, and how they maintained power." According to Bolden, a few individuals tried to "close doors" on the blacks, yet most were willing to help, and "the experience was a good one."

Carol Ramsey, Vice President for the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and Assistant Dean of Students at Bowdoin College, followed Bolden. Ramsey spoke of her enrollment in Massachusetts' Northfield School at age 13, and the "culture shock" of leaving home for a predominantly white institution. According to Ramsey, there were negative feelings among some of the school's black students.

"Blacks were faced with a new self-awareness, which sometimes expressed itself positively, and other times expressed itself negatively," she said. Despite the "isolation and segregation" that this sometimes led to, Ramsey called Northfield a "marvelous experience."

Next to speak was Reverend Robert Thompson, a school Minister at Phillips Exeter Academy, and a graduate of both Exeter and Wesleyan College. Before entering high school, Thompson attended a predominantly black school, where he had little contact with whites. Upon his enrollment at Exeter, Thompson found himself one of two blacks in his dorm, faced with a "snowstorm" of new white faces.

There is an irresistible attraction to try to be like the majority.

In school, Thompson resolved to "claim the American Dream," he said, yet he encountered certain "divided loyalties" which he, along with other black Americans, was forced to face.

"There is an irresistible attraction to try to be like the majority," Thompson said, "but if you're a minority, you know that's not what you're like. It causes a peculiar type of tension."

Thompson said, "I am a patriot, but if we grow to understand what has happened to the people of color in this country, we wonder, 'why am I loyal to America?' "

The last speaker, James Williams, is the Associate Director of Admissions and Director of Minority Recruitment for Middlebury,

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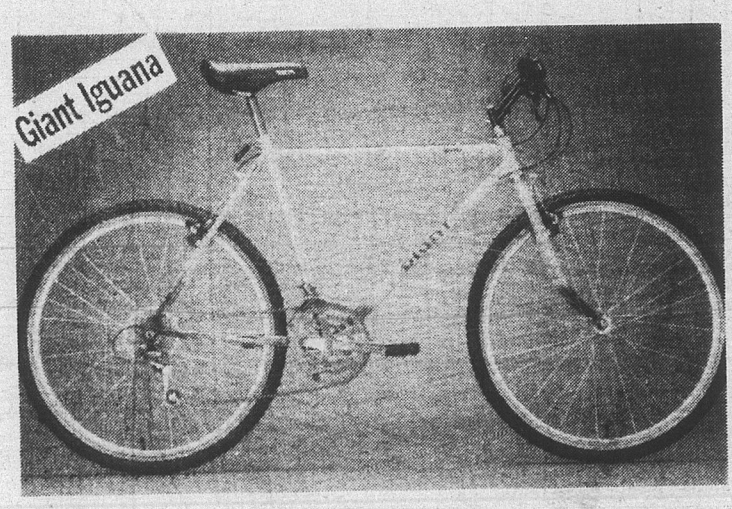

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Panel

(continued from page 4)

as well as a 1974 graduate of the College. Coming from a black area of New Jersey, Williams said he also had little contact with whites before college, and compared his arrival at Middlebury with a "trip to the moon." Williams spoke of a caring and sympathetic college community, but one laden with ignorance and preconceived ideas. "People would come up to me and ask if they could feel my hair because they had heard that a black person's hair was sharp like razors." Williams went on to discuss the "everyday pressures of being a black man." He said, "I would ask myself every morning before I left my dormitory, 'who will I offend today, just because I'm black?' "

During the question and answer period that followed, students directed their questions to each other, as well as to the panel. One student articulated the role of black students as "unpaid educators," obliged to enlighten the college's white community to racial issues.

When a white audience member asked about specific examples of discrimination on campus, comments were made concerning both direct and subtle forms of racism. An incident was cited in which a white student, too "intimidated" to ask a black neighbor to lower his stereo, called her house director in order to avoid personal contact.

While some additional examples of direct racial confrontation were recalled, more attention was given to "subtle racism." Numerous minority students spoke of cold looks and stares, condescending tones of voice, and disparate treatment experienced at Middlebury.

"In a way," Williams said, "the more subtle forms of racism are worse, because you never know exactly what they mean."

IFC President Mickey Kelley commented, "I was surprised that more questions weren't directed to the panel, but I'm pleased that students were willing to talk to other students."

"Vermont is the whitest state in the union," said Ian Bolden in discussing his motive in arranging the panel. "There are very few black professionals."

It's noticeable, Bolden said, "even in the little things like getting a haircut--there are no black barbers in Middlebury, or as far as I know, in the state of Vermont."

Raising awareness of the minority situation was the main goal of the endeavor, Bolden said. "I realize that [a lot of students] aren't prejudiced per se, but—even admittedly—ignorant."

According to Frank Kelley, director of college residential life and advisor to the IFC, the implications of the discussion are far-reaching. "I was delighted to see the BSU and the IFC cooperating," said Kelley. "Hopefully this will serve as a model for other groups and organizations."

BSU and IFC members cite the probability of a follow-up discussion, and the possibility of establishing an ongoing series. "The BSU and IFC have started this dialogue," Kelley said, "and it's my hope and expectation that they'll continue it on an intermittent ongoing basis."

"No concrete answers were reached—probably none exist— but communication and understanding are the key to improving the situation," Ian Bolden said.

Buildings and Grounds addition to accommodate dancers

By Paul Testa

In an effort to clear space for the planned Student Center in McCullough Gym, the Service Building to the rear of McCullough has not been spared the current frenzy of renovation on campus.

For the last semester, workers have been building additions onto the Service Building in an effort to relieve space problems for the Department of Dance and for Buildings and Grounds.

The construction, which make the building accessible to handicapped persons, is concentrated in the rear and front of the building. The addition to the rear will house Vehicle Maintenance, the Grounds Department, and the Custodial Service, all of which are presently in McCullough.

In the upper level of the front addition will be facilities for the dance department, which will remain there until the completion of the new Fine Arts Center, where it will eventually reside. In the front will also be found various faculty and administrative offices, which "will ease the burden of office space" on the campus, according to Director of Operations George Whitney.

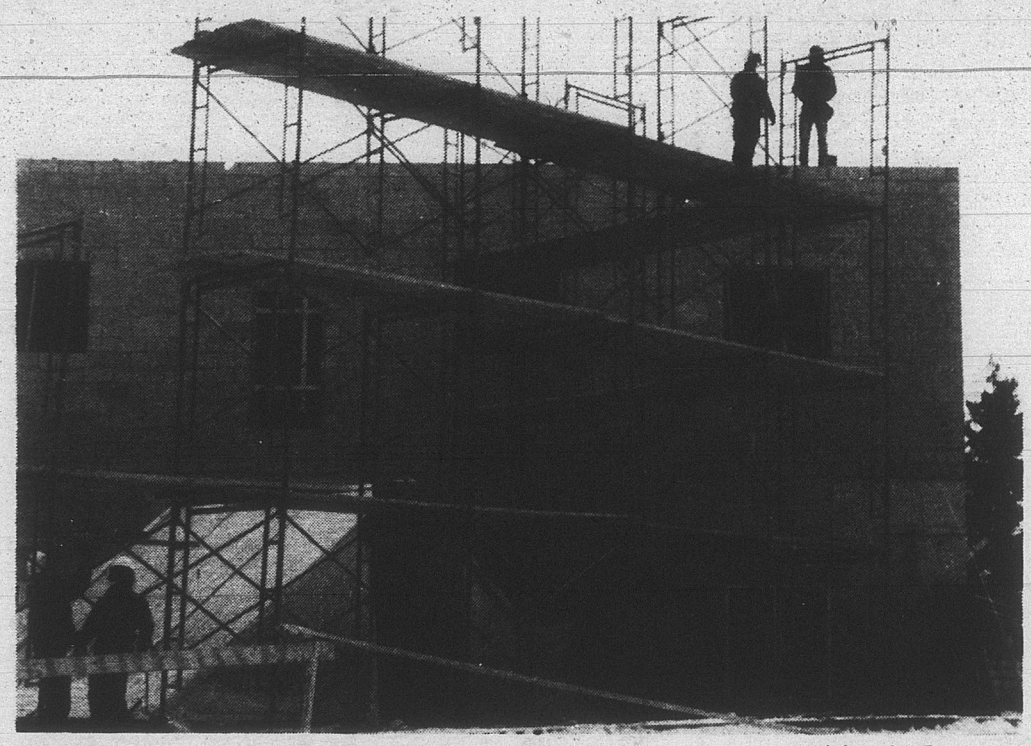
Whitney said that in addition to space for dance, custodial services and offices, there will also be a room for band practice. The existing student band practice room is located in Hamlin and the College would like to use it for dining, Whitney said. He explained that the space is used for dining during summer school and that when the space is cleared out their will be space for about 40 to 50 more seats.

Whitney, who came up with the idea to move the practice room, did so with the intention of meeting some student needs. Students, have to be able to have access to the space late at night and they need a place "where they can make a lot of noise," he said.

The rooms will also be close to the new Student Center, and, commented Whitney, "hopefully they will be playing in the new Student Center."

The entire cost of the project is quoted at $1.5 million, with completion intended for May.

When questioned about the style of the new exterior, Whitney replied "An exterior of cinder block, painted with a textured grey."



Buildings and Grounds building under construction *(photo by Patricia Bliss)*

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Faculty chooses vote procedure Winter Term vote procedure

By Amy Hillier

Faculty members agreed to vote on proposals for a Revitalized Winter Term before deciding whether to keep the 4-1-4 system or to adopt a calendar with two semesters at their February meeting.

Both faculty votes, the first between the current Winter Term and a revised Winter Term and the second between a 4-1-4 calendar and a semester system, will involve mailed ballots. Visiting professors and professors on leave will be included among the faculty eligible to vote, Sallie Sheldon, assistant professor of biology and member of the Education Council said.

Proposals for the Revitalized Winter Term as well as the semester system created by subcommittees of the Education Council will serve as a basis for discussions about the respective systems. Amendments could be made to either proposal at the faculty meetings, however.

The accepted procedure was identical to the one Sheldon and the Education Council first suggested, with the exception of the type of ballot for the vote between the current and revitalized Winter Terms. The Council did not see the need for a mailed ballot, suggesting that the vote be a written one at the faculty meeting.

"We felt that [the plans] were not significantly different from each other," Sheldon said. The Council did feel that a mailed ballot was necessary for the semester system vote.

The voting procedure issue divided the faculty, with fifty members voting in favor of first discussing changes to Winter Term and thirty-five voting for a decision on the 4-1-4 or semester system first.

John Berninghausen, professor of Chinese, spoke in favor of discussing Winter Term first. He would not vote in favor of a revitalized Winter Term over a semester system without knowing what kind of Winter Term he was voting for, he said. He wanted to know "how revitalized, in the sense of effective reforms guaranteeing academic rigor and intensity of educational experience" Winter Term would be before deciding which calendar he preferred.

Berninghausen would like to keep the 4-1-4 system, provided that significant changes, such as 32 minimum contact hours and mandatory course evaluations, are accepted. If the faculty does not agree to such proposals, he will support a change to a semester system.

Others present at the meeting felt the need for advocates of Winter Term to have a chance to improve Winter Term before a vote is taken. "I would like to see those who support Winter Term have an opportunity to make the strongest case possible for Winter Term before any decision is made to go to a two semester calendar," Religion Professor Steve Rockefeller said.

In an attempt to simplify the voting procedure, Tom Beyer, professor of Russian, suggested that a discussion on changes to Winter Term take place only if the faculty votes to preserve the 4-1-4 system. The Winter Term discussion would require an additional faculty meeting, he said, something he hoped to avoid in light of the already numerous demands on the faculty.

"It seemed to me to make sense to decide first off if the faculty was is favor of Winter Term before it expended its energy on the form of the Winter Term and the content," Beyer said.

Beyer admitted that he was almost persuaded to support the Council's proposal after the thought they had put into it, but he saw problems with the plan. He feared that those who are strong supporters of the semester system might not "provide positive input into the discussion of a revised Winter Term."

He also hoped that, "the faculty might avoid engaging in a number of divisive issues if in fact a new calendar was accepted," he said.

Despite his reservations about the accepted voting procedure, Beyer said that he "did appreciate the spirit and atmosphere in which our discussion was held."

The Council hopes to resolve the issue of Winter Term this spring to avoid starting over next year with new Council members and new proposals, Sheldon said. A calendar with a Winter Term has already been accepted for next year, so a decision to accept the semester system could not go into effect until 1990-91. The Curriculum Committee could incorporate changes made to Winter Term this spring into next year's Winter Term, however.

Faculty members have discussed proposals for both the Revitalized Winter Term and the semester system at divisional meetings in preparation for a full faculty meeting.

Sheldon explained that an extra faculty meeting in addition to the regular March 6 meeting will be held on March 20 with the sole purpose of discussing the Revitalized Winter Term proposal. Ballots will be mailed following the meeting. The discussion of the semester system will be held at a later faculty meeting after the results of the Winter Term vote have been announced, she said.

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New director of Bread Loaf English School appointed

Middlebury College President Olin Robison has announced the appointment of James H. Maddox, professor of English at George Washington University, as the Director of the Bread Loaf School of English. Professor Maddox has been a member of the Bread Loaf faculty for many years and is well-known for both his teaching and his scholarship.

A graduate of Princeton with M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale, Professor Maddox is the author of *Joyce's Ulysses and the Assault Upon Character* and articles and reviews on Joyce, Defoe, Samuel Richardson and various aspects of English fiction. His most recent essays are in *Joyce's Ulysses: The Larger Perspective* . He held the Frank and Eleanor Griffiths Chair of Literature at Bread Loaf in the summer of 1983.

Professor Maddox succeeds Professor Paul Cubeta, who has directed the Bread Loaf School of English for the past 25 years. Professor Cubeta will retire from the Middlebury College faculty at the end of the Spring term. He is currently on leave continuing his work with the Bread Loaf Program in Writing.

Robison acknowledged Professor Cubeta's extraordinary contributions to the growth and impact of the Bread Loaf School of English. "Bread Loaf enjoys a singular place in American academic life and much of this is the result of Paul Cubeta's vision and energy. We are fortunate to hvae in the new director a man who has worked so closely with Paul in the past."

Professor Maddox assumed his new post in January.

FEATURES

The Campus Observer:

Museums . . . or monsters?

By Katherine Stebbins

Over the weekend, I went to Montreal for the express purpose of seeing the Chagall exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts. I have had quite a history with museums on the whole. I grew up hating them. I had been to only a couple of museums simply because there are only a couple of them near my hometown in Vermont, and they had always severely disappointed me.

When I was ten, I was fascinated and frightened by the mummy in the Egyptian exhibit at the Fleming Museum at UVM. As I grew older, it no longer produced quite the same thrill. Even when I attended a chamber music recital there, my mind and eyes, as they invariably tend to do with alarming frequency, began to wander, and they saw, much to my dismay, nothing interesting to dwell upon. With such a traumatic memory of a piece that bored me *and* less than inspirational art and architecture all in the same space and time, I later declared to my art teacher's horror: "I have no patience for other people's art!"

Going to New York City for the first time altered my attitude significantly. My two friends and I spent Sunday morning going to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Guggenheim. Suddenly, I stood in a building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, looking at a painting by Picasso, and I felt awed. And I loved how everyone moved through the museums at their own speed, stopping and gazing for as long as they'd like and rushing past what they found unappealing. I got so excited about museums that since then, I've gone out of my way to see them, spending two of my seven days of February break tramping by myself through the National Gallery of Art, and several others.

With my eyes peeled for art at every turn, I discovered six or seven Warhols on sale in a gallery in Baltimore. I stepped inside to get a better look. There they were: a Campell's Soup can, Hollywood Boulevard imprints, a young Ronald Reagan selling Arrow shirts... and this mean, slits-for-eyes, matronly woman staring me down until I had retreated away from her selling space out into the mall. In my annoyed frame of mind, I formulated another brilliant observation: "I hate people who are selfish with their art!"

The Chagall exhibit was beautiful, and it once again proved the innocence of my earlier statements. As I said, the paintings were better than can be imagined, full of strong colors and wondrous dreamscapes. However, it was the next to the last day of the exhibit, and the museum was packed nearly wall to wall with people rushing to see it before it closed. The officials were doing their best, letting in only a certain number at a time of the multitudes of us waiting in line. But once inside, everyone would revert to their normal museum pace, and clogs inevitably occurred.

(continued on page 9)

Footbridge is part of Marble Works development

By Shawn Miller

A sign in the middle of Jessica Swift Memorial Park on Frog Hollow Road in downtown Middlebury entrea[illegible]he citizens to "come ye come." Although the offer seems incongruous these days, as the small park is covered with a deadly sheet of ice, come summertime the area will be distinguished as the landing site of a footbridge crossing over Otter Creek.

This construction will be the first completed aspect of the Marble Works, a restoration of the historically significant buildings located across the creek from Frog Hollow Craft Center. The 14 acre site will include 31,000-32,000 square feet of space for retail shops, an inn, the possibility of over twenty five condominiums, the footbridge, and the expansion by 50% of the towns parking facilities.

"From the plans, I see it will look pretty and decorative, but will it fill a need in the established community?"

View of footbridge construction *(photo by Beth Lasell)*

Yet however alluring the project, which should have all phases completed by 1992, may sound, many members of the community are concerned about the effect it will have on Middlebury in the future.

The project takes it's name from the Brandon Italian Marble Works which constructed the core buildings between 1901 and 1905. The complex was used for the processing and manufacture of Vermont marble blocks. These "core" buildings are being renovated in order to house retail shops from 150 to 3600 square feet in size. A outdoor market, called "South Marble," will also be constructed; it will be "ideal for specialty shops and food oriented vendors," according to the perspectus offered by the Marble Works Partnership. Along with the office buildings and residential development, there are plans for a medical professional structure.

"The town has wanted to see this happen for almost twenty years," remarks Townshend H. Anderson, one of four managing partners for the project. "The people wanted it, the retailers wanted it, but the problem of access has been too great to overcome until this point." Elm Street is being widened and upgraded from Route 7 to the Marble Works site to allow the issue of access to be resolved, and Anderson says this is the "minimum" that will be done regarding the difficulty.

"Middlebury's greatest asset is downtown," Anderson continues, "and I feel strongly that the area's visibility will be enhanced by Marble Works."

Pamela Siers, Executive Director of Frog Hollow Craft Center, believes the addition will be "very positive" with regard to the area's businesses, especially those that rely more heavily on the tourist dollar. "Our big problem has always been parking," she claims, "and, from what I understand, the space Marble Works offers will be more than adequate."

Anderson adds that he sees the major change in the community will be "psychologically and perceptually," accepting the construction of such a large complex, and some locals are all ready voicing doubts as to the positive effect of the new subdistrict.

"I wish them luck, but I just don't know if this environment can support a project of this scale," warns Shirley Neal, owner of Frog Hollow Art.

Jackie Noyes, proprietor of Noyes Florist on the edge of

(continued on page 10)

Halfway House provides taste of Vermont

Dinner at the Halfway House Restaurant *(photo by Beth Lasell)*

By Caitlin Cahill

Do you get the late-night munchies, or have you been looking for a restaurant with down home, basic good food? The Halfway House Restaurant in Shoreham, run by mother and daughter Cora Waag and Denise Pidgeon, on Route 22A, is open twenty-four hours a day Monday-Friday and from 5 am-8 pm on weekends. It boasts a bottomless cup of coffee and a two-sided menu with small print offering possibly every kind of food combination for under $6.00 from homemade soups (try chicken noodle!) and eleven different kinds of pie (mince, pecan, Boston cream, strawberry-rhubarb) to large-portioned breakfast specials (including the fluffiest omelette you've ever had.)

Perhaps you have noticed the green and white bumper stickers that say *Don't complain about farmers with your mouth full* that advertise the restaurant. The bumper sticker is an indication of the type of clientele found at the Halfway House, mostly farmers during the day, truckdrivers at night. Included among the patrons is the occasional Middlebury student, perhaps seeking the real Vermont. A Vermont diner, that is.

Inside, you will find yourself in a clean, fluorescent lit room with green vinyl booths, and a counter with swivel seats left over from the 1950's. If you go late at night there will probably be one or two truckdrivers at the counter, eating the daily soup and getting caffinated. The atmosphere is of another time, removed from the false façades of the eighties. And, at the Halfway House time is not of the essence, so sit back, relax, and chow down.

Mark Maxwell and Bud Liddell are two Middlebury students who frequent the Halfway House. Once they encountered a group of truckdrivers who they sensed were giving them a hard time, overhearing themselves referred to as "little college brats." But Maxwell added that owner Cora Waag was quick to stand up for them. When later asked if he felt welcome at the Halfway House, Maxwell responded, "Very much so. It's her business, and she's been cool about our being there."

How to get there: take Route 125 towards the New York state ferry, and at the T junction make a left onto Route 22A. Soon you will see the little white house framed by the big trucks that give the Halfway House its special purpose. Travel time is about twenty to twenty-five minutes from the College.

Reflections on a lifetime's experience with fire drills

By Mike Rea

I remember how, in junior high, I would rejoice at the sound of the fire alarm. Of course they were always drills, and there was no actual threat involved. Nonetheless, it was fun getting outside, as well as missing a good fifteen minutes of class. I guess they have tornado drills in Kansas, and maybe hurricane drills somewhere else, but in California we also had earthquake drills. When the alarm sounded, everyone was to drop to his knees underneath the desk, fold his arms over his head, and cradle his head between his knees.

You know the procedures, they are written on the signs posted in probably every elementary school classroom--the ones you read when class gets too boring. I even remember reading a drill procedure on what to do in the event of nuclear explosion. "If you happen to be outdoors, look for a ditch to lie in. If not, just get flat on the ground as quickly as possible, burying your head in your arms." Something like that--we never rehearsed that one.

Though asking drunk and exhausted college students to wait in the freezing wind outside may seem like an outrageously cruel gesture, I realized the safety procedure has its merit.

I also remember that at my high school the fire drills were always scheduled, about two a year. By then the drills weren't as fun as they were before, they were just an unnecessary hassle. The only times they were welcomed was when they interfered with a quiz, despite the administration's careful planning.

Maybe they, and even I, would act properly for a slow burning fire, but I seriously doubt it for a major earthquake. There is something about losing control of the very earth beneath you that is completely unnerving. One time, my supervisor at work "lost it" and he started screaming during a large quake. She took the afternoon off while I kept on at $8.00/hr. I thought that I should at least get double time, taking aftershocks and pain and suffering into consideration.

BUT IN MIDDLEBURY, Vermont, earthquakes are of little concern, even though geologists say that when the "big one" hits the East coast, damage will be tremendous because of lax building codes. This theory must apply to cities like New York or Boston, rather than to anything in Vermont, but one can never be too cautious. Watch out for falling skyscrapers. At least none of the Eastern states have to worry about becoming an island state off the coast of Nevada.

Fire is a global hazard, even in winter, and Middlebury College has fire alarms installed in their dorms. Early one morning, at about 1:30 am, February 25, the fire alarm went off in the Hadley dormitory. My initial reaction was to wait until it went off, but reflex and curiosity brought me into the stairwell to see what there was to see, which was nothing. My neighbor stayed in bed, which is probably what most everyone who was in the building did.

Just to prove a point to myself, I walked all the way downstairs and peeked outside. Yep, three people waiting out there in the bitter cold. It looked as if they were scanning the roof to see signs of the Hadley inferno. I thought of calling security, but didn't, knowing that "someone else" must have. After an uncomfortable fifteen minutes, the clamoring finally ended.

I remembered a certain fire alarm incident that occurred two months earlier when I was visiting Boston University. The conditions were far worse: it was a harsh 5:00 am. And since security is much tighter at BU than it is at Middlebury, they had to check people's I.D.'s before the students were permitted to return. Though asking drunk and exhausted college students to wait outside in the freezing wind may sound like an outrageously cruel gesture, I realized the safety procedure has its merit. I decided then, on that sidewalk, that I praise Middlebury endlessly for making me wait outside in the snow.

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A.M. dining at the Lemon Fair

By Debra S. McConnell

If you miss your Mom's pancakes that she loads up with butter and lots of maple syrup, or long for a breakfast of scrambled eggs and bacon that will keep your belly happy way into the afternoon, then you may want to take a trip down to the Lemon Fair Restaurant some morning before class and fill up. The waitress will warm you right away with a hot cup of coffee and bring you your breakfast desires minutes after you make a choice, with plenty of time to make it to your 9:15.

Eight breakfast specials are offered on the menu, including combinations of eggs or pancakes with bacon, ham, or sausage. A favorite of a friend I dined with was the "Morning Sandwich," which is an English muffin topped with scrambled eggs, cheese, and a choice of meat.

There are also chalkboard specials each morning which may offer raisin bread french toast, choice of bacon, ham, or sausage, and coffee for $3.95. Another treat found in a chalkboard combination is a corned beef hash cheese omelette — you can order just corned beef hash à la carte as well for $1.75.

If your sweet tooth starts nagging you this early, there are danishes and a similar item called a bear claw offered in addition to other small breakfast items such as an English muffin, toast, or a biscuit. Nothing especially fancy here, just some good eats.

Breakfasts arrive quickly and hot, although if you are watching your cholesterol, you may find some dishes too greasy. A definite plus is lots of coffee refills and tea made from boiling water, not the semi-warmed variety found in most restaurants. A complaint I have heard, however, is the small size of the juices — order an extra large if you want anything more than a taste.

The atmosphere of the Lemon Fair is an appealing change from the eighties style cafés that can often seem overdone in an attempt to be quaint. Here you will find wood paneled walls, booths upholstered with red vinyl, chrome tables, and plastic placemats. Old advertisements for ski resorts and vintage movie posters decorate the walls and local radio is played for the cooks and diners alike.

Lemon Fair Restaurant on Merchant's Row *(photo by Beth Lasell)*

Corrado Salini bought the Lemon Fair in the fall of 1987 while visiting friends in Vermont — the restaurant has existed under various names since 1920. Mr. Salini will greet you at the door, asking how school's going and may come over during your meal to make sure you have scraped your plate clean. I was surprised on only my third visit when he asked why he hadn't seen me in a while. His warm personality is the friendliness many of us are looking for in a small town.

The Lemon Fair is located on Merchants Row across from the town green — easy to spot since it is painted a yellow as bright as the fruit's. The restaurant opens for breakfast at 5:30 A.M. Monday-Saturday and 7:00 A.M. on Sundays. I recommend the Lemon Fair for a hearty, simple breakfast that will cost you about five dollars — a great deal for some pretty decent food.

Students explore area caves

By Alison Lowen

I used to think of caves as a trendy vacation attraction. Carved out walkways, lots of lights, maybe a restaurant or a souvenir shop in the depths of the cavern for the weary traveler.

When I decided to go on a Mountain Club sponsored caving expedition during J-Term, I was unsure of what to expect. Ben Garver led the trip to Morris Cave, about an hour south of Middlebury. I quickly learned that caving, or spelunking, is a sport which tests your psychological as well as physical strength.

First, we were told how to prepare for the conditions. Despite the freezing, winter temperatures, caves maintain a constant 50 degrees Fahrenheit year round. We were advised to wear wool clothes that would keep us warm even when wet, since we would be crawling through puddles and mud.

The entrance was intriguing only in the fact that it was so unimportant looking, simply a hole in the side of a cliff. We put on our helmets, checked our flashlights, and then literally dove in head first and forged on. At first I tried to avoid the worst of the mud, but then I soon realized that I may as well not bother. I crawled along, knees digging into the rocks, head knocking against the roof of the cave.

As we journeyed farther and farther away from the opening, the temperatures grew warmer. Soon we came to a "pinch," where the cave narrowed into an even smaller tunnel with barely any room to crawl. I got down on my stomach and wormed my way forward, using only my toes and elbows to move. I breathed in rock and mud and slid forward, trying to forget how I used to be afraid of locking a bathroom door or being closed up in an elevator.

Finally, my head emerged into a slightly bigger room — huge by comparison, for I could sit up and crawl. We continued forward, through two more pinches and entered a large cavern where we would begin our descent to the lake. We tied a rope to a protruding rock and used it to climb down a steep, muddy face.

At this point, we were so deep into the cave that no sunlight could filter down. We were using flashlights to find the way. We switched off all our lights to experience total darkness in this natural setting. My eyes strained, but found absolutely nothing. Sounds of running water were magnified as hearing took over seeing. I held my hand in front of my face but had to feel my fingers to "see" that they were still there. There was no difference between having my eyes opened or closed.

The entrance was intriguing, in that it was so unimportant looking, simply a hole in the side of a cliff.

When we were tired and hungry we decided to head back. The cave looked completely different as we traveled in the opposite direction: I couldn't recognize any of the rooms. At the end we ran into another group entering the cave. What a very strange way to meet new people — covered in mud and lying against a rock wall underground.

Freshman Jeannette Squires was intrigued by the horizontal position one assumes while exploring a cave. "It's like being in a different world," she explained. Squires was also impressed by the level of teamwork required for a safe experience.

"You have to respect that the cave can kill you," said Garver. Kurt Broderson, another caver, emphasizes that caving can be extremely dangerous. Water levels fluctuate dramatically, causing rockfalls and slippery conditions. Cave rescues are difficult, so it's better to take precautions before going, and never go alone. Good lights are essential as are a first aid kit and a person who really knows the cave. "We're just not made to be there," observes Garver. "You've got to be prepared."

Broderson and Garver explained that caves have a unique and delicate environment which can easily be destroyed by people. Most of the caves in this area have taken more than 20,000 years to form, and any damage done to them is irreversible. In winter, bats hibernate in the caves, and lights and loud noise can disturb them. If wakened their metabolisms will increase, and they won't be able to find enough food to survive.

Broderson and Garver believe caves and their inhabitants should be respected and protected. Too many caves have been exploited, paved over, and lit up to facilitate accessibility to people who want to see, but not experience the cave. Caving is a sport for the truly adventurous who really want to get to know the earth and won't mind the hellish load of laundry afterwards.

Students give Winter Carnival mixed reviews

By Kate Maloney

Snow, Spice and Bourbon on Ice... Well, two out of three ain't bad.

Even a lack of snow, however, couldn't put much of a damper on the Middlebury College Winter Carnival 1989, "Blizzard on the Bayou." The weekend was filled with festivities and frolicking of a Mardi Gras flair sure to offer, at the very least, a spicy taste of New Orleans flavor.

While Thursday afternoon's Northern Lights warmed up those brave enough to face the challenging competition of broomball, the First Night celebration at Kirk Alumni Center really started things off with a bang. Inside, guests mingled around a casino setup to the sounds of a Dixieland jazz band. Before a wall of windows, everyone gathered to watch the fireworks display set off from the athletic fields.

Despite the biting cold, First Night events were quite popular. The favorite seems to have been Frank Santorelli, the comedian at Cook. He kept a full house laughing and checking the corners of their mouths for that elusive "white stuff" he described that seems to appear just when you're being introduced to someone! "His routine was spontaneously humorous, not staged and stuffy like other comedians I've seen," said Laura Bozarth '92.

The weekend was filled with festivities and frolicking of a Mardi Gras flair, sure to offer, at the very least, a spicy taste of New Orleans flavor.

Both Coltrane and Hepburn lounges were rocking to the sounds of a band from Williams and a DJ, respectively, while a crowd invaded Proctor to dance to the Choice. One freshman said that the Coltrane band had been "chosen wisely. Their sound was rich, and, for the most part, those who arrived to check them out stuck around to dance. In fact, even after my friends left, I stayed on to listen."

Both Friday and Saturday were beautiful and sunny, though cold, days for students to hit the slopes at the Snow Bowl and cheer on the Middlebury ski team. Some found the deck of the lodge to be the ideal spot, not only for watching the races but for catching some rays. Christine Bushey '92 exclaimed, "It was absolutely gorgeous! A chance to maintain my Feb. break tan!"

Skiers and nonskiers alike made it back in time to warm up with hot mocha drinks and spicy appetizers at the Mississippi Queen Winter Warm-Up in Johnson. Many clapped in time with the fiddlin' musicians, while others relaxed in another room to a pianist.

Liz Hopper '91 had a more positive reaction, stating, "it can be a great weekend if people don't get uptight about the money and date situation."

"Blades on the Bayou," the 1989 Ice Show, performed both Friday night and Saturday afternoon, offered a combination of professional and local talent, from Doug Mattis and Ginger and Archie Tse, to promising skaters from Middlebury and the local high school. "A Masquerade Ball" was particularly fun to watch, for it included faculty, as well as skaters both young and old. And let's not forget the amusing spoof done by the guys, "Midd-Night Blues"— does anyone know what the letters on their chests spelled out?

The talent continued at Friday's Night Clubs in Upper and Lower Proctor. Guitarists and singers, cloggers and lip-syncers provided quite a variety of entertainment. Seeing the Dissipated 8 in skirts just might have been the best — "It was good to see the D-8 show some skin!" said Jenni Kaufman '92."

Other favorites, judging from the audience response, were acts like Jesus Cricket, whose close-to-musical profession of love for the phone mail lady brought cheers. The Blasters were popular, too, according to students like Catherine Warden '92: "The Blasters really grabbed hold of you, if they didn't throw you into the next room first!"

Broomball competition during Northern Lights *(photo by Patty Bliss)*

Unfortunately, though, the general consensus among the students was that the Night Clubs were too long and the MC's were simply too much. Jennifer Jolliff '92 thought that the Night Clubs "were a great idea, especially because they were student performers, but the MC's took away from it by noisily drawing too much attention to themselves and dragging on endlessly." Maybe everyone was just too anxious to get down to Zeta Psi for their 24-hour Winter Carnival party.

The Carnival Ball supposedly did not live up to all the hype that had surrounded it for what seemed like weeks, but nearly all those who went still had a nice time. The decorations were beautiful: the set up of a little town, the glowing ice sculptures, the canopy of lights - all created a nice atmosphere. The dance floor was crowded with dancers in black velvet and taffeta dresses and black tuxedos.

The jazz band was popular, although many wished that it had not attempted to play Top-40 tunes. "In the beginning I liked their style, it was different and refreshing, but towards the end they tried some recent hits which didn't seem to go over as well," said Kelly Barnes '92.

Jim Terhune did mention that ticket sales had dropped significantly since last year, and that things were made somewhat confusing by the lack of snow for snow sculptures and the Cross Country races.

One junior had similar sentiments saying, "They shouldn't have tried to play all that Top-40 stuff. They should have stuck to the swing music they were playing."

Some found the coat check at Pepin was somewhat out of control as well. Sarah Gordon '92 explained," It took me twenty minutes to get into the coat room, before I could even begin to look for my coat. They didn't even give out tickets."

So was Winter Carnival a success? According to Jim Terhune, the assistant to the Director of Student Activities, "Carnival is a success if people enjoy themselves." He said that the Carnival's financial success will be unknown for about another month. Terhune did mention that ticket sales had dropped significantly since last year, and that things were made somewhat confusing by the lack of snow for snow sculptures and the Cross Country races. He feels that the theme, "Blizzard on the Bayou", made for a fun weekend.

A number of people avoided the scene altogether. One junior, who opted for a trip to Cape Cod to do some clamming, reasoned, "there was no snow. The spirit just wasn't there. If you didn't have a date, it was a lot less fun being there."

A fellow escapee was more critical, claiming that "Winter Carnival is lame and expensive."

There were mixed reviews from those who stayed on campus for the weekend. Brett Hanscom '92 suggested, "We should design more events that will bring everyone together."

Liz Hopper '91 had a more positive reaction, stating, "It can be a great weekend if people don't get uptight about the money and date situation." So let's hear it for Snow, Spice, and Bourbon on Ice, and let's start thinking for next year...

Museum... or monsters?

(continued from page 7)

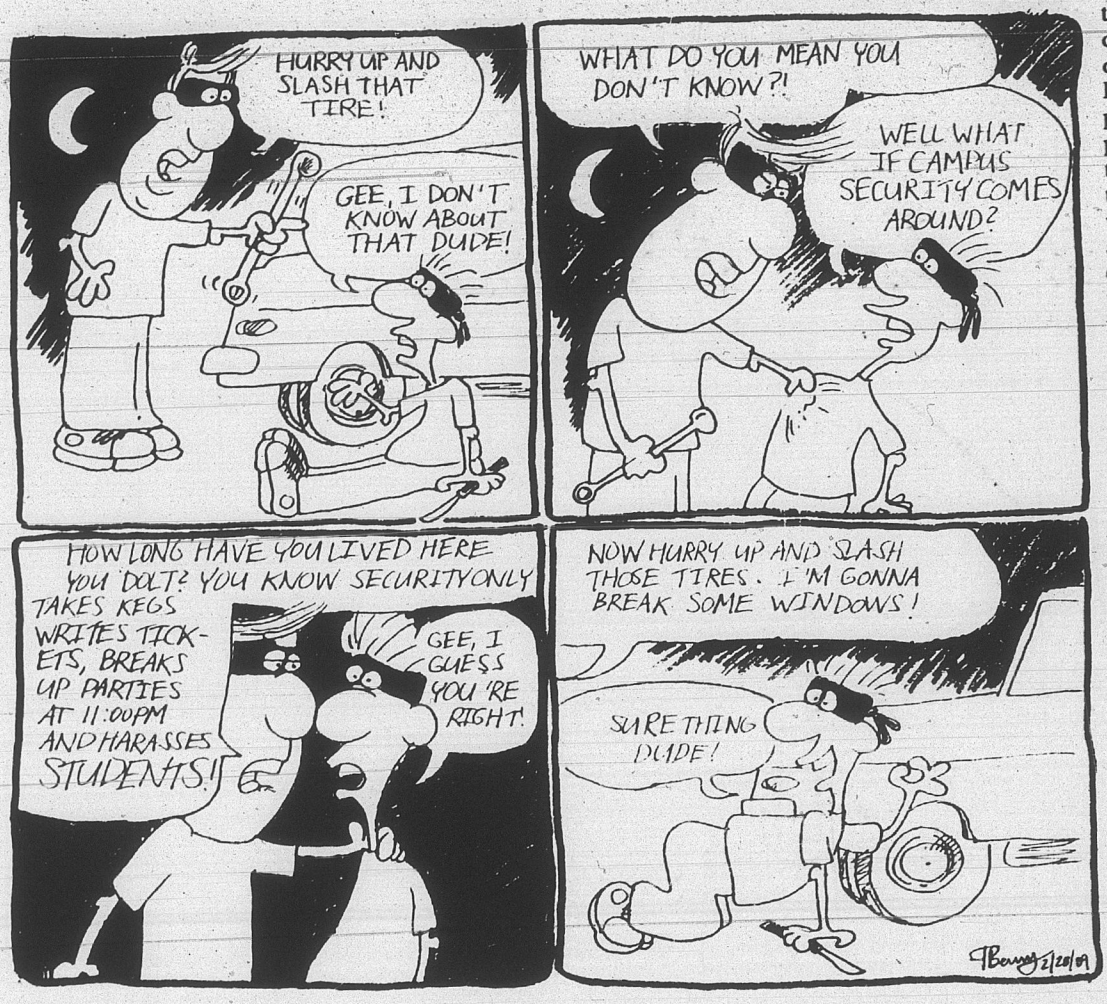
To exacerbate the problem, everyone but myself and my companions seemed to be wearing those annoying head phones and tape players, listening to a nameless, faceless, monotonous voice verbally lead them through the entire exhibit. And they were all turned up to the point where the words were audible, but not articulate, to the surrounding area. We made the rounds in record time and moved on to a pizza parlor/bar/bistro. Oh, museums! Places of solitary and intimate inspiration and revelation! What will redeem you to me now?!

AMIGO'S RESTAURANT
MERCHANT'S ROW
MIDDLEBURY
388-3624
FREE WINGS
TUES & THURS
10-11 PM

STEAKS
Seafood
Fire & Ice Restaurant
"Something For Everyone"
Mobil Travel Guide
20 Reasons Why...
...you should try us this week
Cashew Chicken, Teriyaki Beef Kabob, King Neptune, Black Diamond Steak, Pasta Alfredo, Spicy Peanut Chicken, The Bar Room Steak, Burrito, Chicken Boursin, Steak & Fries, Pasta in Olive Oil, Chicken Fingers, Sliced Turkey Sandwich, Hot Reuben, Sugarbush Burger, Bartenter's Special Burger, Blue Burger, California Burger, Cheese Burger, Chicken Burger
ALL these selections are priced under Ten Dollars and include our famous Salad and Bread Bar!!
Closed on Mondays
26 Seymour St. Middlebury, Vt. 388-7166

Student Comics

Alone In A Crowd — *By Berry, Freni, and Co.*


HURRY UP AND SLASH THAT TIRE!
GEE, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT DUDE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW?!
WELL WHAT IF CAMPUS SECURITY COMES AROUND?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED HERE YOU DOLT? YOU KNOW SECURITY ONLY TAKES KEGS WRITES TICKETS, BREAKS UP PARTIES AT 11:00PM AND HARASSES STUDENTS!!
GEE, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
NOW HURRY UP AND SLASH THOSE TIRES. I'M GONNA BREAK SOME WINDOWS!
SURE THING DUDE!
TBerry 2/28/89

Marble Works development

(continued from page 7)

Marble Works Road, sees the development as a threat to the existing downtown businesses and the structure of traditional downtown Middlebury. "If they do well they're going to erase the Main Street developments," she predicts. "With the footbridge, people will be able to go straight to the [complex] without going through downtown. But I think it will take time for the people to adjust. They won't set the world on fire. Maybe in twenty years they will be successful, but not now."

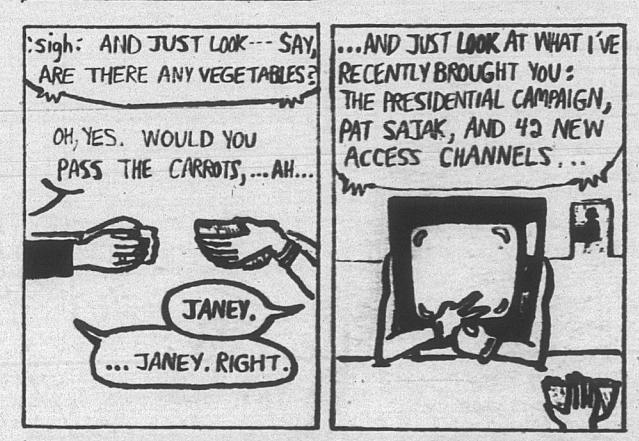
Questions concerning the complex's true benefit for the locals are also raised by Hugh Coyle, Academic Assistant to the Director at Bread Loaf. "I'm worried that it will turn out to be a bunch of little specialty shops that cater exclusively to tourists," he says. "From the plans, I see it will look pretty and be decorative, but will it fill a need in the establishe community?"

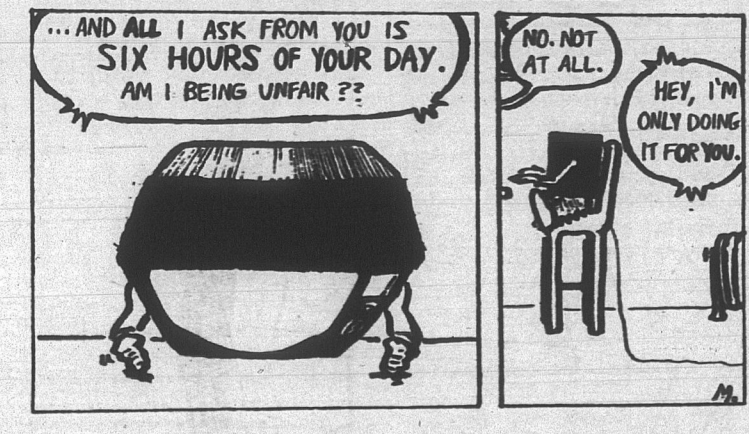
Anderson stresses, however, that Marble Works does not want to compete with the established community, but coexist in a mutually beneficial manner. "We're not trying to take business away from the existing establishments. We're simply filling a gap," he relates. "There is a shortage of retail space; businesses are working out of basements in town, and we can offer opportunities in that area. We will not be taking customers away from downtown, we will simply create a loop circulation instead of a linear circulation. Middlebury already has a diverse reputation for fine arts and crafts, and we can solidify that reputation," he adds. "In fact, we have had inquiries made by Burlington corporations interested in expanding into our area. They don't want to lose their Middlebury market. Marble Works will keep people in the area, and actually prevent the creation of a market based on tourism."

To introduce themselves to the Middlebury business community, the partnership held an open house last week. The evening included a presentation to guests, in order to "help people see how the project was actually moving along," according to Andy Kirkaldy, Sales Associate at Century 21 Real Estate. Marble Works offered the proprietors the opportunity to

Big Idea Comix — *By S. Mattie*

... I FEEL I HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH ATTENTION LATELY. AND YOU KNOW HOW SENSITIVE I AM TO NEGLECT...
... NOW, WAS IT ME OR WERE YOU READING LAST NIGHT?
WELL, I...


:sigh: AND JUST LOOK--- SAY, ARE THERE ANY VEGETABLES?
OH, YES. WOULD YOU PASS THE CARROTS, ... AH...
JANEY.
... JANEY. RIGHT.
...AND JUST LOOK AT WHAT I'VE RECENTLY BROUGHT YOU: THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, PAT SAJAK, AND 42 NEW ACCESS CHANNELS...

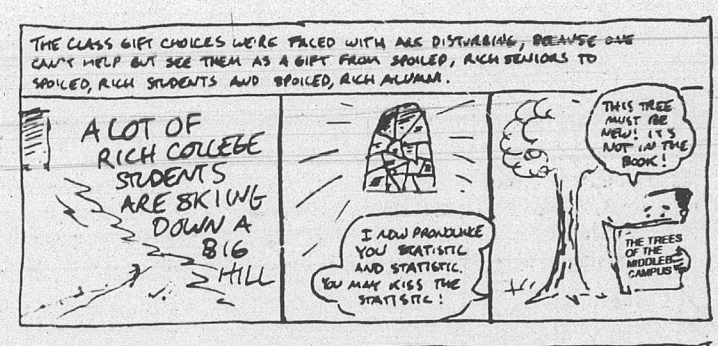


THIS IS MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE!

BY JEFF POTTER and PETER BETHKE

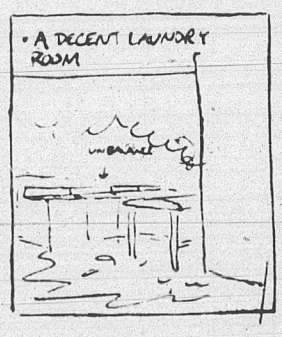
Attention, seniors! Show some class spirit and the true meaning of unity! Fork over some money for your...

Class Gift

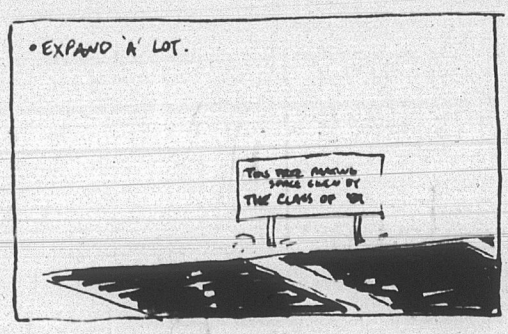

THE CLASS GIFT CHOICES WE'RE FACED WITH ARE DISTURBING, BECAUSE ONE CAN'T HELP BUT SEE THEM AS A GIFT FROM SPOILED, RICH SENIORS TO SPOILED, RICH STUDENTS AND SPOILED, RICH ALUMNI.
A LOT OF RICH COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE SKIING DOWN A BIG HILL
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU STATISTIC AND STATISTIC. YOU MAY KISS THE STATISTIC!
THIS TREE MUST BE NEW! IT'S NOT IN THE BOOK!
THE TREES OF THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

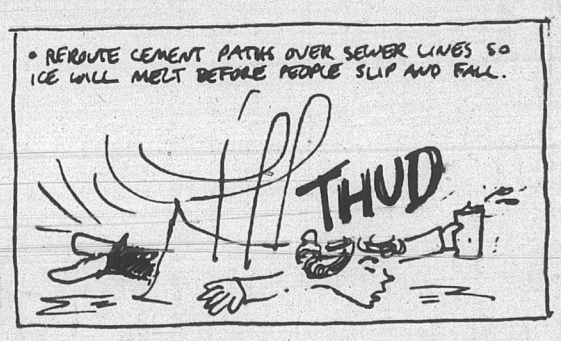
GET REAL!

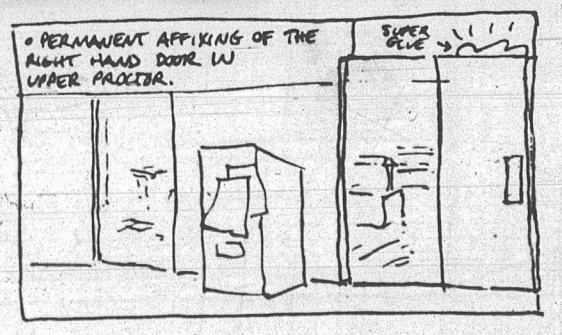
WHAT EARTHLY GOOD DOES ANY OF THIS CRAP DO? HOW ABOUT SOMETHING THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY?



• A PHONE MAIL SYSTEM THAT'S COMPREHENSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE CALLING FROM HOME
Hello, this is the PhoneMail ...em. Please ... the extension ... would like to ...e a message ..., and ... push ...nter, ...und. ...e last ...llowed by
(ANSWER)
Hello! Nobody answered the number you dialed. If you want to leave a message, dial the number again. If you're calling from a rotary telephone, hang up and write a letter.



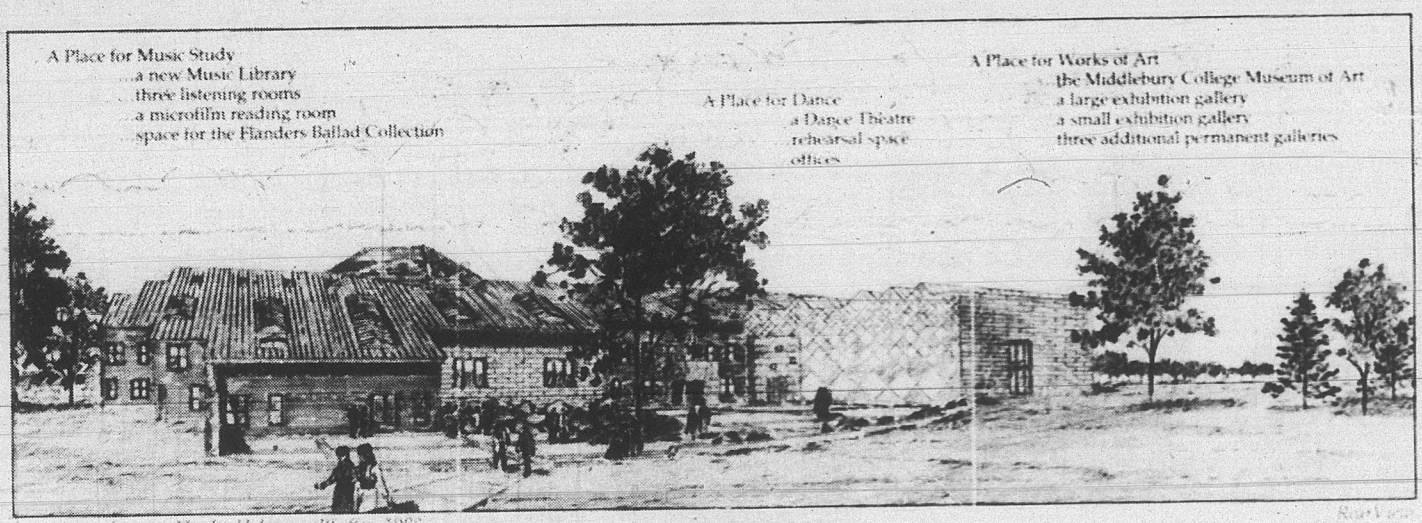




ARTS

Blueprints for new College Arts Center reveal improved facilities for Middlebury Dance Department

A Place for Theatre
a fully equipped "black box" theatre
classroom and office space
costume, design, and prop work
A Place for Music Performance
a 400 seat Concert Hall
ten practice rooms
a digital electronic and computer music studio
departmental offices for Music


A Place for Music Study
a new Music Library
three listening rooms
a microfilm reading room
space for the Flanders Ballad Collection
A Place for Dance
a Dance Theatre
rehearsal space
offices
A Place for Works of Art
the Middlebury College Museum of Art
a large exhibition gallery
a small exhibition gallery
three additional permanent galleries

Artist's renderings: Hardy, Holzman, Pfeiffer, 1988.

A center for the arts at Middlebury

By Pamela Vail

Much to the excitement of the performing and creative arts departments here at Middlebury, the College is planning a new arts building. This week I had the privilege of viewing the blueprints of this elaborate center and dance instructor Penny Campbell provided me with some information on what the new building would be like, specifically for the dance department.

The classrooms for dance will be located on the ground level of the arts building. There will be one large classroom—as large as McCullough—and one smaller classroom. The larger room will be shaped like a box with one of the walls curving outward. This room will be equipped for conversion into a proscenium type of environment for performances. It will include lighting tracks and tracks for curtains. Penny notes that it will be a "flexible space," and will "inspire people to work in different ways." The smaller classroom will also have lighting equipment to convert to a more formal setting for smaller showings. Both of these spaces will have windows, and the larger room will even have skylights. Penny said that the dance department has been striving to provide the new studios with a certain "neutrality" in the space while maintaining the light, airy feeling of McCullough.

In addition to the two main rooms, there will also be a space for storage and a space for costumes. There will also be what Penny called a "green room," which will be an all-purpose place for meetings, video viewings, and classes such as dance history. This room will also include a kitchenette. Near the dance studios will be dressing rooms fully equipped with bathrooms and bathtub/showers inside.

Turning the pages of the blueprints, we examined the upstairs level of the new arts center. Penny pointed out where music rooms, art galleries, and a good-sized concert hall would be located. Above the green room on this upper level will be four offices and a lab room for the dance department. The ceiling of the large dance studio will continue up through this floor, and the dance offices will have windows to overlook the main room. The lab will be a place for hands-on work, such as studies in anatomy. Penny, Andrea Olsen, and a guest artist/professor will be using the offices, as well as musicians for dance classes and B-St. John Schofield, lighting designer and technical director for dance performances. The dance department also hopes to set up an audio-visual library. Penny predicts that a couple of the dance offices may have to serve more than one purpose. Also on the upstairs level will be a light/sound booth for the performances in the larger dance studio downstairs.

The lobby downstairs will be shared by everyone in the arts building, and Penny predicts it will be an interesting and busy place. In the center will be a cafe similar to the "Crest Room." The dance department will also have the advantage of being close to the music library in the new facility.

The new arts center will consist of oddly shaped rooms and corridors, and Penny looks forward to "discovering the building." The process of planning this new center has been quite complicated and has involved countless details. There is a lot of "nitty-gritty" involved as Penny puts it. At present, the planners are at the stage of organizing furniture and equipment. Penny also notes that the sound and video equipment should be excellent which will be very helpful to the dance department.

Wright Theater will still be used after the new building is erected, but Penny expects that the new large studio theater will be the main performance site for dance. Wright seats more people and may be used for performances when a larger audience is anticipated, but the new studio will have a bigger, more desirable performance space.

The digging for the new arts building should begin this year, and the center itself will not be completed until the fall of 1991 at the earliest. It will be located near the road leading to the football field. Once the renovations of McCullough begin, the dance department will move to a temporary space which is being constructed over the Buildings and Grounds service building.

Frears' *Dangerous Liaisons* receives seven Academy Award nominations, transmits dangerous message

By Jane Keller

When I heard that Glen Close and Michelle Pfeiffer had been nominated for Academy Awards for their performances in *Dangerous Liaisons*, I was interested and skeptical. While I have never had any complaints with the performances of Close, I have never been impressed with Pfeiffer's acting abilities. In some of her films such as *Married to the Mob* and *Tequila Sunrise*, I have found her performances to be stiff and uninspired. In both of these films she failed to capture my attention, much less my sympathy, and thus I was intrigued as to why she was being praised in this new film.

Dangerous Liaisons, directed by Stephen Frears, is based on the eighteenth century French novel, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and Christopher Hampton's screen adaptation has been nominated for an Academy Award. The story is a complex web of intrigue exploring seduction, power, sex, and revenge.

John Malkovich is quite masterful and sinister in his portrayal of the Viscomte de Valmont, a character who finds his challenge in life through betrayal and seduction of virtuous women. Glen Close is equally as convincing in her role as the Marquise de Montreuil, a woman who claims that she was born to dominate the opposite sex and to avenge her own. She skillfully portrays the spirit of deception, anger, lust, and hatred, which is evident throughout the film. She is manipulative and vengeful, and as Tim Brookes notes in his review of the film, she "is able to slide seamlessly from humor to viciousness with just the right turn of the head."

Surprisingly, I was not disappointed by the performance offered by Pfeiffer. Her portrayal of the pious married woman who falls into the trap set by Malkovich is commendable. She clearly transmits the torment and frustration she feels about her inability to remain faithful to her husband, and her performance enabled me to understand her painful predicament.

Though the performances of the main actors were commendable, I did not find them astounding. However, some of my criticism of the acting may stem from the context of the film itself. *Dangerous Liaisons* has been nominated for best picture, yet I do not find the film worthy of such honor. In fact, I found it quite disappointing. Although the plot pretends to be full of complications and twists of intrigue, the result is quite mundane. We never really grow to sympathize with any of the characters and thus we fail to be drawn in by the story or care about what happens in the end.

My criticisms of the film do not end here. Though the action takes place in a specific historical period, and the events may be true to the times, I could not ignore the blatant abuse of women in the film presented under the guise of lusty sex, seduction, and intrigue. Though the story may be true to the novel from which it was adapted, it is our role as viewers to be critical of and question what we see on the screen. Perhaps the director and producers of the film meant to provide a commentary on the moral decay of the times, yet no clear criticism is evident.

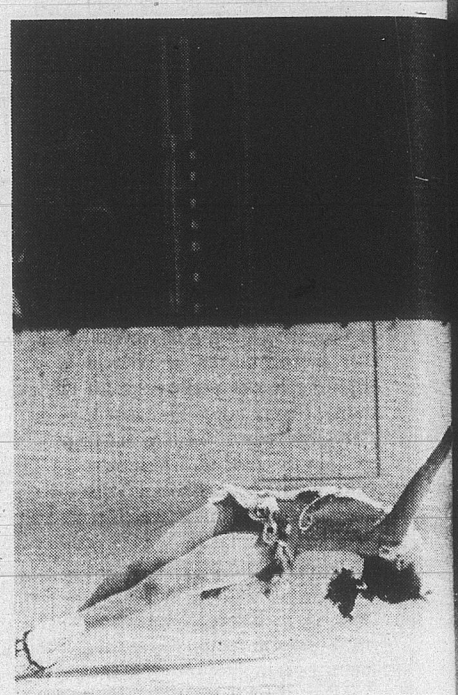
In one scene, the character played by Malkovich enters the room of a young woman late at night and proceeds to rape her as she cries for him to stop. "I just want one kiss and then I'll leave," states the Viscomte, yet the camera cuts away as the struggle continues. Later, when the young woman appeals to the Marquise de Montreuil (Close) for help, her advice is to allow this man to continue his "instruction" and to let him show the young woman the ways of sex. The woman, who had moments earlier been terrified of any man doing "that" to her again, now becomes intrigued and smiles sinfully. At this point the audience laughs at her and the entire rape scene is passed off as a trivial occurrence which came about as the result of lust and seduction.

Later in the film, it appears that the Viscomte is going to repeat the rape scene with Madame de Torvelle (Pfeiffer) as his victim. Yet as she cries on the bed as he unbuttons her bodice, we see him pause while looking at her face. What stops him? Is it his growing love for her which makes him unable to continue? Are we supposed to commend him for this? Throughout the film, there is little if any indication that we should severely criticize the actions of this character. Perhaps in the end, we are supposed to realize that such conduct can only bring one to an early death, yet as Malkovich lies bleeding in the snow professing his love for Madame de Torvelle, it seems that we are supposed to feel some sympathy for him.

The attitudes about women, sex, and morality in this film are extremely disturbing, and the lack of any real criticism about these attitudes is even more disquieting. Throughout the film, we are supposed to be amused that the Viscomte uses naked women as his writing "tables" and we are continuously assaulted by the vision of women's breasts erupting from their dresses. Shockingly, the advertisements for this film read "Lust and fun..." Is rape supposed to be fun? Are we supposed to enjoy seeing the atrocities committed in this story?

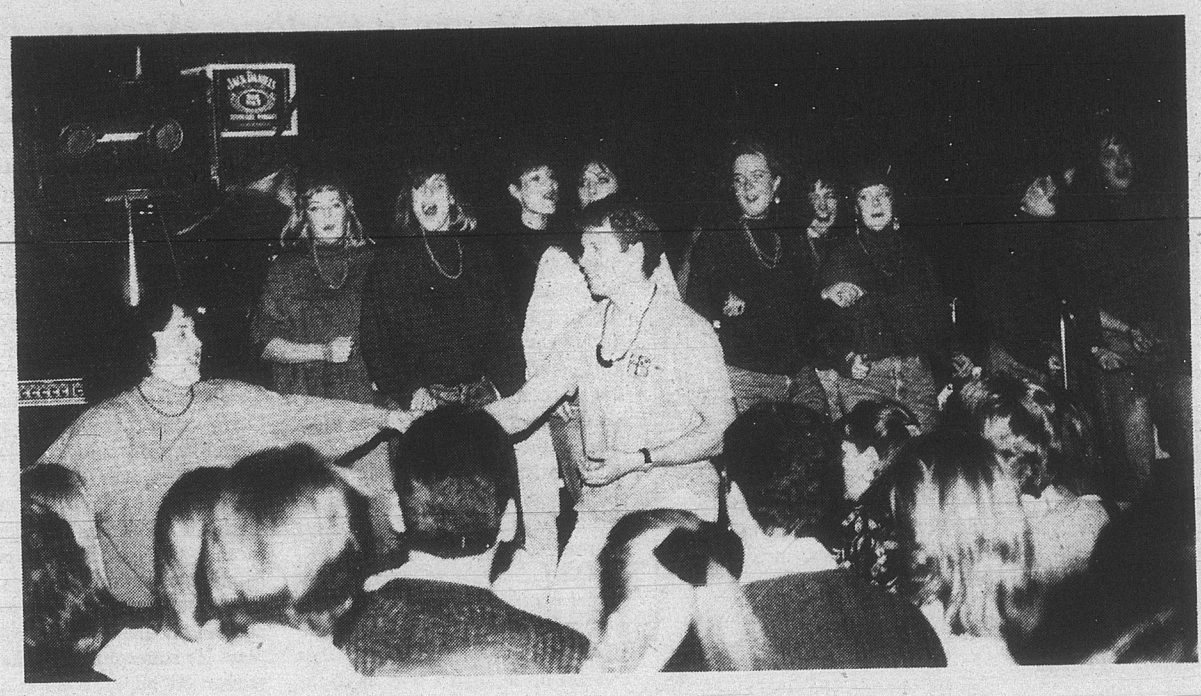
Dangerous Liaisons has garnered seven Academy Award nominations in total, only one less than that received by the critically acclaimed *Rain Man* starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise. In addition to best actress, best supporting actress, and best screenplay, *Dangerous Liaisons* has also been recognized for best art direction, best original score and best costume design. Undoubtedly, the costumes in the film are splendid, and James Acheson (costume director) should be commended for his skill. Though there are some good performances in the film, (I was surprised that Malkovich was overlooked for nomination), the movie on the whole was disappointing and disconcerting.

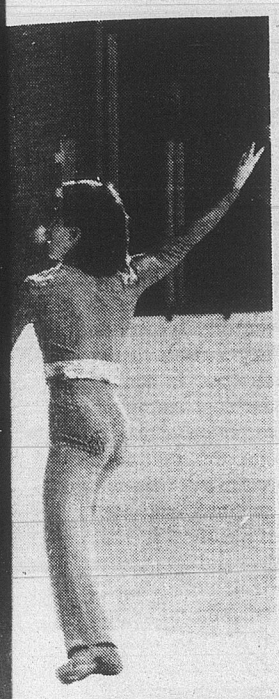
Blizzard on t



Winter Car

Bayou





ival '89

Vermont Happenings

Fri. March 3

The American Movie Club: *Altered States*, 7 & 9:30 pm., Dana Aud.

The Dept. of Theatre, Dance and Film/Video: *A Miracle*, 4:30 & 7:30 pm., Warner Hemicycle.

The Dept. of Theatre, Dance, and Film/Video: *On the Verge or The Geography of Yearning*, 8 pm., Hepburn Zoo.

The Art Dept. presents: A Senior Art Exhibit, works by Thaddeus Briner, March 3-10, 9 pm., Johnson.

The UVM Music Dept. presents: *Women Making Music* 8 pm., UVM Music Building.

St. Paul's presents: Gretchen Amussen, organ recital, 8 pm., St. Paul's.

The Mayor's Arts Council presents: *Mindscapes*, an art exhibit by Axel Stohlberg, M-F, 8:30 -4:30 pm., Burlington Metropolitan Art Gallery.

Sat. March 4

College Street Film/Video Series: Tampopo, 4 & 7:30 pm., Twilight Aud.

Newman Club Film: Maxie, 7 & 9 pm., Dana Aud.

The Dept. of Theatre, Dance and Film/Video: A Miracle, 7:30 & 8:30 pm., Warner Hemicycle.

The Dept. of Theatre, Dance and Film/Video: On The Verge or The Geography of Yearning, 8 pm., Hepburn Zoo.

Catamount Arts presents: Kodo, a Japanese percussion company, 8 pm., St. Johnsbury Academy, Fuller Hall.

Sun. March 5

Concert Series: Marian McPartland Duo, 3 pm., Mead Chapel.

Middlebury Film Society: D. O. A. and Assault on Precinct 13, 2:30 & 7 pm., Dana Aud.

Gallery Talk, an exhibition of David Bumbeck, 6 & 7 pm., Johnson Gallery.

Burlington Film Society presents: *Knife in The Water*, 7 pm., City Hall Aud.

The Mayor's Arts Council presents: The Great Swamp Cafe, Laisanne Allen, Rick Klein, & Bunky Dickason, 3-5 pm., Burlington Community Boathouse, College St.

Mon. March 6

The Movement Center: A master class with the Martha Graham Dance Company, 10 am., The Movement Center, 6 Morse Drive, Essex Junction, 878-4213.

Tues. March 7

The UVM Lane Series presents: The Martha Graham Dance Company, 8 pm., Flynn Theatre.

Wed. March 8

The Vermont Repertory in *The Birthday Party*, 7:30 pm., Vermont Repertory Theatre.

Thurs. March 9

The Lane Theatre presents: The Arditti String Quartet, 7 pm.

Local Legends Coffee House & Kitchen Kabaraet presents: Susan Keniston, 7:30-10 pm., Daily Bread Bakery, 434-3148.

Women's Culture Series: Women's History Month Film Series, *Rosa Luxemberg*, 7:30 pm., Warner Hemicycle.

The Vermont Repertory in *The Birthday Party*, 7:30 pm., Vermont Repertory Theatre.

Fri. March 10

The American Movie Club: The Deer Hunter, 7 & 10 pm., Dana Aud.

Concert Series: Arditti String Quartet, 8 pm., Mead Chapel.

The Vermont Repertory in The Birthday Party, 7:30 pm., Vermont Theatre.

St Paul's presents: The Hope of Peace, 8 pm., St. Paul's.

The Lane Theatre presents: African Women's Percussion Ensemble, 8 pm., Ira Allen Hall.

Ted Perry's *Oedipus Wrecks* breaks barriers

By Nathalie Kurylko

During the weekend of February 16-19, those who entered the Hepburn Zoo to see the performance of *Oedipus Wrecks* were in for quite an experience. Each of the four nights, between 8 and 10 p.m., conventions were *wrecked* for the select audience that managed to obtain tickets for the sold-out show. Author and director, Ted Perry, his staff, and his cast of eight actors and actresses transformed a classical Greek drama into a contemporary, improvisational piece. Much of the drama's strength lay in the spontaneity which characterized the performance as well as the process of creating this piece.

The moment I walked into the stage I was struck by the set and the atmosphere it created for the audience. I say "into" because the stage was set up in such a way as to incorporate the audience. Three rows of fold-out chairs were placed along three of the four walls of the room. Each of the rows was at a different level, with an area behind the uppermost row enabling the actors to move freely about the space. The ceiling and the walls were all painted with a gray, stone-facade motif, reminding one of a medieval castle, and sheets of lucite which hung from the ceiling to the floor were interspersed among the audience. On the lucite were written time-lines or family trees directly relating to the text of *Oedipus Rex*. In the front of the room was a television, VCR, video camera and a light board. These formed the primary props of a relatively sparse setting. The rudimentary quality of the set reminded us that throughout this performance we would be exploring basic human instincts and emotions.

In a traditional reading of *Oedipus Rex*, Oedipus is guilty of regicide and incest. *Oedipus Wrecks*, however, explores another viewpoint. In Perry's rendition, Oedipus' parents, especially his mother, Jocasta, are the proposed catalysts of action. Perry's version pays much more attention to Jocasta and closely examines her role in the play. He states that "Jocasta dances around the edges, she has a certain voice, and it says to take things the way they are." These "suppressed texts," as Perry describes them, form a main part of the basis of the drama.

The cast consisted of Thomas J. Armbrecht, Daniel Coyne, Ann Deppman, Sarah Dumke, Caroline Morner and Peter B. Schmitz. Before the drama began, the actors sat on stage drawing, talking with, and filming members of the audience, immediately setting a tone of spontaneity, of immediacy, of this being reality.

Inspiration for the piece, explained Ted Perry, came when he saw "Cirque du Soleil" in Los Angeles last summer. A circus show is exciting, it is spell-binding and it is here and now—when that "actor" is on the tight-rope, what he or she is doing is very real and the audience can sense that reality: over a thousand pairs of palms are sweating simultaneously. "I wanted to do a theatre piece that has that same feeling of spontaneity," explained Perry.

The success of the production derived from this sought-after spontaneity. In fact, the very process of creating the play was often spontaneous. Sophocles' original text of *Oedipus Rex* served as the initial basis of Perry's version. His revised text consisted of some scenes which were written out and other scenes which employed an improvisational structure. Perry's text, along with three movie productions of *Oedipus Rex*, was used as the catalyst during rehearsals. As the creative process progressed, Perry and his cast revised his initial work. In addition, the director and cast continually worked to incorporate actual life experiences into the production through improvisation: "We were always trying to bring material in from the rest of our lives as a way of keeping it alive and spontaneous and in the hope of collapsing the boundaries between rehearsal, dreams and real life . . . whatever that is," said Perry.

Perry's goals were realized in the final performances of the play. The "fourth wall" (the imaginary barrier between the actors and the audience) had been knocked down and discarded before the audience ever arrived. One of the objectives of the play was to work with this notion of the wall, to restructure the "threshold" as Perry defines it. Because of this restructuring of boundaries, I left the theater having experienced the play rather than having merely watched it. I was a part of the set; I helped to create the atmosphere; I even brought home a piece of Sarah Dumke's drawing.

Like the original text of *Oedipus Rex*, this production explored the theme of sexuality, but it requested that the audience actively participate in this exploration. The play asked each of the spectators to explore their own conceptions of sexuality as well as those held by society. As an improvisational piece, the drama also required that the spectator ask her or himself "where does my role as spectator end and my role as participator begin?"

It would not be effective for me to describe particular scenes, to qualify them as disturbing, introspective or revelatory. Like any dramatic text, the actual production with the presence of an audience is necessary to make it complete. In the case of this very successful presentation, interaction with the audience was not only crucial, but compelling and exciting as well.

Album review: Anita Baker gives the "best she's got"

By Dean Garfield

In her new album, *Giving You the Best That I Got*, the songstress of soul, Anita Baker, embodies the essence of beauty, irresistible charm and gracefulness, characteristics which I feel are intrinsically related to African-American womanhood.

Anita, as she is affectionately known by her fans, was born in Toledo, Ohio. However, it was in Detroit where she was raised that the forces of gospel, blues, and jazz began to influence Anita's life, and where a career was begun. In 1983, the first album of her budding career was released. Three years later, her second album, *Rapture*, amassed sales of over five million copies worldwide. Her latest production, *Giving You the Best That I Got*, is destined to surpass those totals.

The album, which is produced by Michael Powell for Electra Records, is a fusion of her gospel, jazz, and blues roots into a beautiful gift of music. The lyrics are a product of her strong feelings for her husband, the line "with love so strong and so unselfishly" clearly reprsents what's in her heart. Anita's background in jazz is more evident on this album than the last; there are fewer ballads and the percussion instruments are more prominent.

On the title cut and others, such as "Lead Me into Love," "Rules," and "Just Because," Anita's sultry voice is accompanied by an excellent mix of refreshing background music. Many believe that the distinct change in her sound can be attributed to two special events in her life, a recent marriage and a pregnancy. The ballads on this album exhibit a greater jazz influence than those on her last release, yet they remain just as soulful.

"Good Enough" and "Just Because" are expressive ballads which could penetrate any heart. The song "Good Enough" expresses some of the joys and insecurities that anyone in love can identify with. Lines like, "Well, you can count on me for anything you choose", "I just hope you think I'm good enough", and "For your love,baby/ said I would walk through fire/ for this love, honey/ said I would reach my highest ground" showcase the broad range of emotions that she is experiencing.

Anita Baker. She may not be a superwoman, but, as the title of her album expresses, she gives you the best that she has got, which in my estimation is the best that any human can produce--until her next album.

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SPORTS

Men's lacrosse: Shooting for two in a row

By Timothy Berry

The 1988 Middlebury men's lacrosse team boasted some impressive credentials: not only were they ranked number seven in the nation and number one in New England, with thirteen wins against only one loss, but they were also E.C.A.C. champs, beating arch-rivals Williams and Amherst twice each in one season.

The '88 Panthers were a team that had eleven seniors, all of whom started at one time or another during the season. The starting goalie and five of the six midfielders graduated in '88. Two of those seniors, Scott Seymour and Chris Storkerson, were All-Americans last year.

The 1989 Panthers will look to duplicate last year's success with the aid of head coach Jim Grube and five new coaches. Four players from last year's team return this season as graduate assistants. Scott Seymour will coach the attackmen, and Chris Storkerson and Craig Westling will work with the defense. Miles Lilly returns to help out with the goalies and will play a large part in coaching the B-team. Grube feels that the time and talents volunteered every year by former players comprise a large part of what makes Middlebury lacrosse special. Mike Gerber, an assistant football coach, will be coaching defense for the varsity and will head the B-team program. As they move into the season there are a large number of unanswered questions facing the Panthers, the biggest of which is a lack of college playing experience.

A large portion of the team consists of untested freshmen. The greatest area of concern is in goal, where the team will be forced to rely on one of four rookie goalies. Coach Grube feels that each of the four goalies show a great deal of promise, saying that, "the team should be solid in the goal," but the success of this year's team may well depend on the performance and maturity of the new goalie.

Another area of concern for the Panthers this year will be a lack of depth at the midfield position. Senior Co-captain and former All-American Jim Riley will lead the middies, but he is coming off a serious knee injury. There is a strong current of feeling that a major factor in Middlebury's success this year will be a healthy Riley. The only other middie returning from last year's team is the talented Senior Damon White. The rest of the middies will be drawn from the ranks of inexperienced rookies, the brightest prospect being freshman Banc Jones. The emergence of a strong group of new middies is essential to the success of the '89 team.

Despite the loss of Scott Seymour, the greatest strength of this Panther squad may be its strong crew of attackmen, three of whom, Juniors Ron Willet, Willie Patty, and Sean Murphy, were high school All-Americans. Rounding out the unit is Senior Jim Chapman. All four of these players have a significant amount of varsity experience, and Willet, who started for the Panthers last year, is a scoring threat every time he touches the ball. All four of these players have excellent stick skills and are extremely quick. Grube is optimistic about the prospects on attack this year and and likes the unit's depth; look for the attack to anchor this year's squad.

The Panthers also look strong on defense in '89. Gone are Storkerson and Westling, but Senior co-captain Rob White leads this year's crew of defensemen and is an excellent player. White came into the season in excellent shape and his performance this season will be pivotal to the team's success. Also returning on defense are Sophomores Jerry Ward and Brad McKee. Ward started as a freshman in '88 and the squad will lean heavily on him this year. As with most areas of the team, the level of performance of freshman defensemen must be exceptional to offset the lack of experienced defensive personnel.

Another area that may cause problems for the team is the absence of a seasoned face-off man. A quick, powerful face-off man is an essential component of any successful team at the college level. At this point in the squad's training the position is wide-open, but possibilities for face-offs include Sophomore Greg Mandack, Junior Mark Freni, hockey player Paul Hauf ('90), and Banc Jones.

To tune up for the season, the Panthers will take their annual trip to Virginia over spring break. While on the trip Middlebury will face Denison, Washington and Lee, and Swarthmore. These are the same three teams that the Panthers played on last year's trip when they went 3-0, but this year's trip may be more important because of the uncertainty over the strength of the '89 squad. The trip will also enable freshmen and other rookies to gain valuable experience before returning home to a grueling schedule. Grube feels that all of these schools field excellent Division three teams and that the trip is a perfect opportunity to test the team's strengths and weaknesses.

Once they return to New England the Panther's will head into E.C.A.C play. Although Middlebury has dominated E.C.A.C. lax for the past decade, Grube feels that Williams is probably the best team in the league this year. There are no pushovers in the E.C.A.C. and as Damon White stressed, " We're the biggest game on everyone's schedule. Coming off a 13-1 season and taking Williams and Amherst twice, every team we face will be geared up to play us." Grube's goal for his squad this season is "to make the E.C.A.C. [playoff] field, and defend the championship title." Also on the schedule are two Division-one opponents: the University of Vermont and Dartmouth, who dealt the Panthers their only defeat last season.

As they move into the season there are a large number of unanswered questions facing the Panthers the biggest of which is a lack of college playing experience.

For the Middlebury men's lacrosse squad to excel in '89, Grube feels that they must use their personnel intelligently and stay healthy. "I don't go in for any of that cynical coach talk about how much trouble the team is in. We have a lack of depth in some areas, but we're a solid team and we should be good," commented Grube.

A successful Panther season depends heavily on the health of key players and the successful emergence of several of the younger inexperienced players, especially in the goal and at midfield. As third-year player and defensive-middie Tom Bredahl said, "Great leadership in the returning players will facilitate the incorporation of the younger players into the squad. We've got to refine our raw talent so that we become a machine that hits hard and puts the pearl in the net. Aggressive play and hard work will put us where we want to be." Hopefully that will be atop the E.C.A.C. lacrosse heap for the second year in a row.

Men's lacrosse coach Jim Grube rallies his forces in quest of a second E.C.A.C. championship

(file photo)

Women's lacrosse squad prepares to defend N.I.A.C. title

The Panther women's lacrosse team practice their stick skills in preparation for the coming season

(photo by Quinn Pollock)

By Sue Haviland

Coming off of last year's successful season, the women's lacrosse team is looking to maintain its strong record. Last year's team, being the first Middlebury women's team to ever win a New England Inter-Collegiate Athletic Conference (N.I.A.C.) title, has set a strong precedent. The returning squad appears ready to accept the challenge of having an equally successful season.

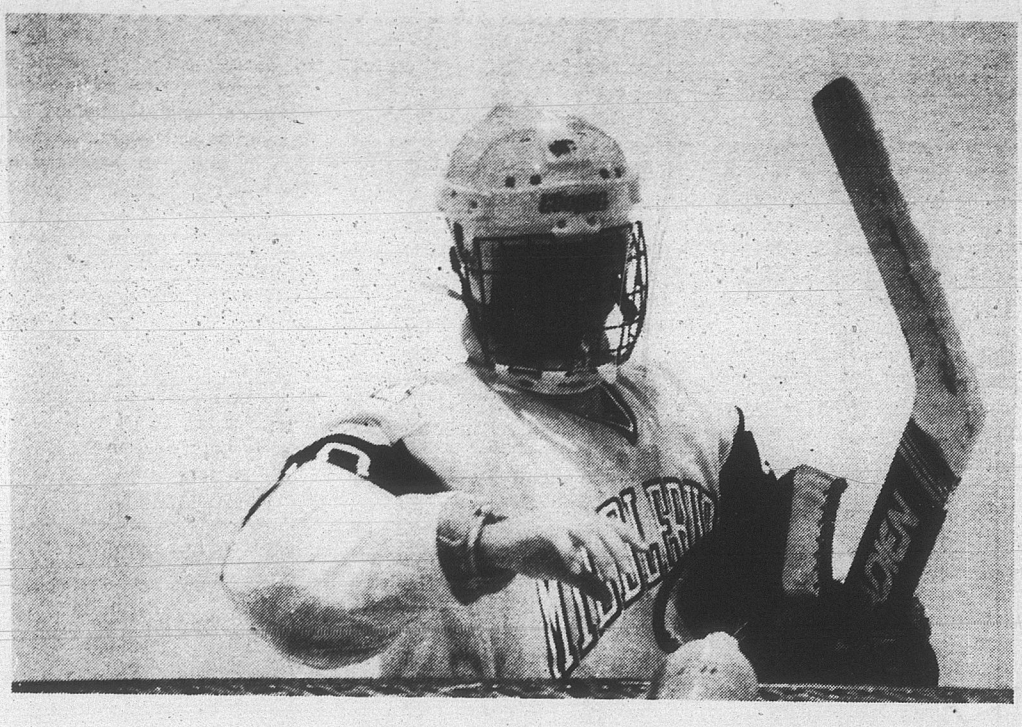
Despite having lost All-American Megan Kemp in the offense, the team has a returning attack that will fill Kemp's footsteps well. Senior Co-captains Marci Griffith and Vic Hoyt are both versatile attack players and will take control on offense. An All-Regional from last year, scoring 40 season goals, Karen Griffith '90 will be depended upon again for her speed, stick skill, and quick shot. Hillary Stone '91, who finished strong after being plagued by early season injuries, is being counted on to add speed to this already powerful attack.

Defensively the team has lost several key players, including All-Regional performer Kerry Yeager. However, Coach Missy Hopkinson feels that the experience of three-year starting goalie Jill Danieli '90 should be instrumental to this year's success.

The returning squad appears ready to accept the challenge of having an equally successful season.

Having set a school record last year for the most goalie saves in one season, Jill will be a definite asset. In addition, Hopkinson feels that Kathleen Murphy '90 will pick up where she left off last spring. Having used a similar strategy as the varsity club, the B team will provide the needed

(continued on page 18)



Freshman goaltender Brent Truchon was instrumental in the Panther's drive to the playoffs

(photo by Quinn Pollock)

Panther's fall prey to heavily favored Polar Bears: Lose 5-1 in playoff contest

By Mike Rankin

In their first playoff action in six years, the Middlebury men's hockey team lost to the nationally ranked Bowdoin Polar Bears, 5-1. The Panthers showed surprising toughness against the heavily favored Bowdoin squad. In fact, the outcome was very much in question entering the third period, as Bowdoin clung to a shaky 2-1 lead.

The opening period saw the expected jitters on both sides, as the opponents felt each other out. Bowdoin finally drew first blood on a score by Vin Mirasolo at 14:22. To their credit, the young Panthers displayed the gutty determination that got them to the playoffs and eventually evened the tally when Senior Dave Wheeler put an unassisted end-to-end gem past Bowdoin goalie Steve Janas three minutes into the second stanza. Middlebury's team of the future was fast becoming a team of the present.

To their credit, the young Panthers displayed the gutty determination that got them to the playoffs and eventually evened the tally ...

With the score knotted up and the opening nerves settled, the teams started battling for the loose pucks with more intensity. Each side racked up four minor penalties during one stretch in the second period.

At the halfway point of the period, Bowdoin opened a 2-1 lead on a score by Jim Powers. The period ended with a flurry of aggressive hits as Bowdoin drew a five minute major penalty for spearing. This was the Panthers big chance to see their hopes of an upset come to fruition. Middlebury entered the third period with three minutes still left on the power play. Although this temporarily silenced the Bowdoin crowd, the Polar Bears, true to their reputation, never let down. While Middlebury did get some serious opportunities on Janas during the three minute stretch, the Bowdoin goaltender continued to stone wall them. Janas performance was incredible, as in three periods of sparkling netminding, he stopped 33 of 34 shots.

After the failed power play, the Panthers' momentum was gone. Bowdoin took their cue, turning their intensity up a few decibels. The Polar Bears converted three times (two by standout forward Chris Delaney) in less than six minutes, making the final margin 5-1. However, this was anything but a blowout. For two and a half periods it was an even hockey game, and for that accomplishment, the Panthers had every right to be proud. The measure of success for this team should lie in the fact that they made the first round ECAC playoffs, giving one of the next year.

Although this temporarily silenced the Bowdoin crowd, the Polar Bears, true to their reputation, never let down.

finest teams in Division II hockey more than they wanted or expected. To upset Bowdoin on their home ice, it would have taken the best sixty minutes of hockey that the Panthers were capable of combined with a few favorable bounces of the puck. If Bill Beaney can have another a good recruiting year, the Panthers will continue to improve, and in all probability set their sights higher

Women's basketball readies for N.I.A.C.s

By Andrew Frey

As winter begins to dwindle, and mud and rain bring hopes of oncoming spring, there seems to be a sense of nervous anticipation on the Middlebury Campus. After all, the men's hockey team was knocked out of the playoffs in the first round, the men's basketball team narrowly missed qualifying for post-season play, and although the Panther skiers fared well, they couldn't secure victory in the Winter Carnival. For all intents and purposes, there isn't much else to do, but sit back and wait for lacrosse season to begin.

Yes, some uninformed sports fans may subscribe to this attitude. But, they are sorely mistaken. There is another team in town. A team that has steamrolled opponents to the tune of a 14-4 record. The 1989 Panther women's basketball team has compiled this record and with it an unprecedented invitation to the New England Inter-Collegiate Athletic Conference (N.I.A.C.) championships which begin this Saturday at Connecticut College.

There is another team in town. A team that has steamrolled opponents to the tune of a 14-4 record.

For Senior co-captains Suzanne Eckert and Sue Haviland, four years of hard work and dedication have finally paid off. For the remainder of the Panther squad, however, many of whom are underclassmen, the N.I.A.C.s are merely a springboard to bigger things, namely the E.C.A.C.s. Nevertheless, the invitation to the N.I.A.C.s serves as a symbol of the recognition that the Panthers have earned throughout the Northeast.

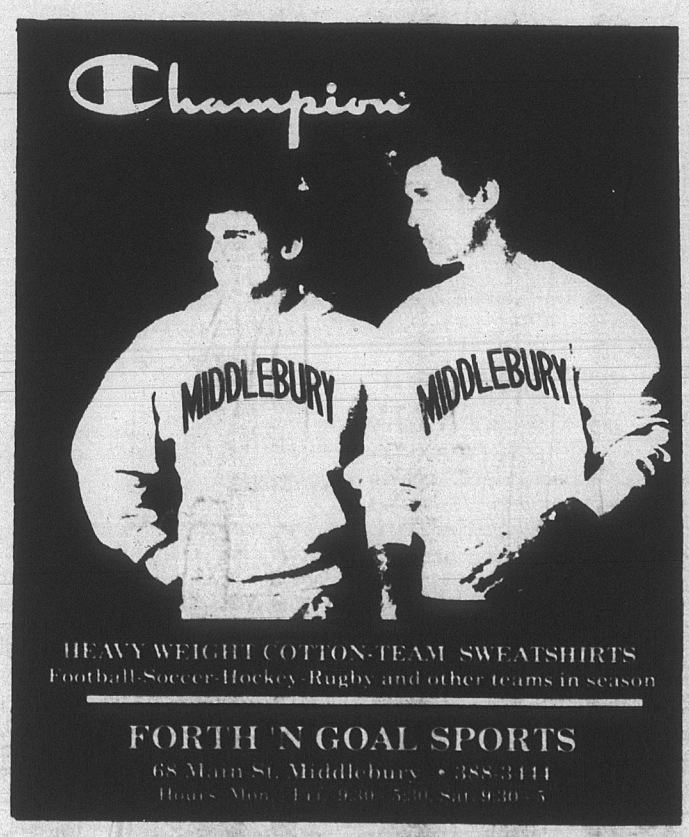
The Panther women's basketball squad has been propelled by a starting five which consists of Junior power-forward Meredith Binder, point-guard Kathyrn Dubzinski '90, sophomore off-guard Holly Fryberger, center Caroline Leary '92, and freshman forward Sarah Raunecker. This five combined with seniors Eckert and Haviland and freshman Erica Moody, a constant three-point threat has propelled the Panther squad to N.E.S.C.A.C. dominance. All year, the strength of the team has been strong bench play, and coach Amy Backus hopes this trend continues throughout the playoffs.

...the invitation to the N.I.A.C.s serves as a symbol of the recognition that the Panthers have earned throughout the Northeast.

First-round opponents, the Camels of Connecticut College, have also had an outstanding season. The Camels' strength lies in their strong inside game. However, their vulnerability lies in their lack of speed which the Panthers will seek to exploit. This is not to say that Middlebury is hesitant go inside with Connecticut, as with the likes of national rebounding leader Caroline Leary and shooting percentage leader Meredith Binder, they do not match-up unfavorably with the Camels. However, the Panthers plan to turn the tables on their opponents, utilizing their versatile offense to repeatedly attack Connecticut on the fastbreak.

Although Connecticut College is a perennial division three power, Middlebury is coming off their best campaign in years...

The Panthers possess an added strength in that they are relatively unknown to the Camels. Although Connecticut College is a perennial division three power, Middlebury is coming off their best campaign in years; they hope to carry the momentum from their successful regular season with them into the playoffs, and on to victory.



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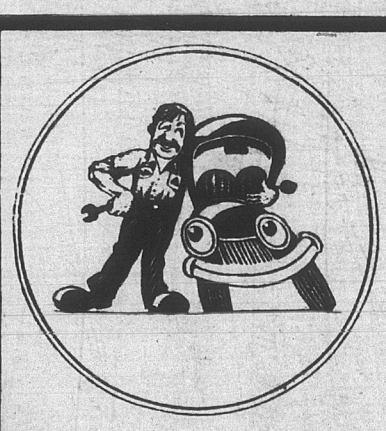
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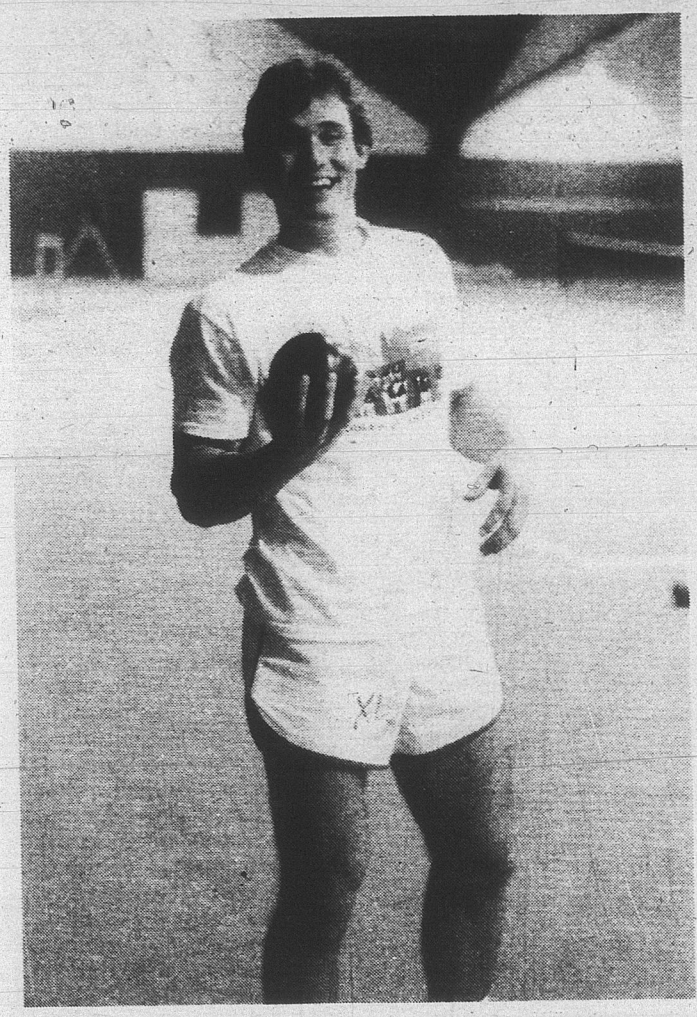
Track teams look forward to successful '89 seasons



Men's track member Jeff Detweiler readies for the competition

(photo by Quinn Pollock)

By Raymond Gallagher

Martin Beatty is an excited man these days. Martin is the first-year head coach of the men's and women's track teams, but the reason he is so excited is that he feels his teams are on the verge of a breakthrough season, one that will start "a new era in a sport that hasn't been looked at seriously in the past."

The men's track team boasts a big and talented freshmen class. There are two runners in particular that figure to burn it up all over New England in the 100 and the 200 meters: Greg Fowler and Eric Wellman. Fowler comes out of the winter track season ranked 5th in the 55 meters, while Wellman is ranked right behind him at 7th.

Coach Beatty is quick to point out that these first-year runners are by no means expected to carry the team; that job has fallen on the weight events during the last couple of years. The weight squad is led by Junior All-American hopeful Jeff Detweiler and Senior Co-Captain Ted Kuzmeskas. Detweiler, an All-NESCAC performer in the discus, missed qualifying for nationals by only 4"; Kuzmeskas, All-NESCAC standout in the shotput in '88, is also looking to qualify for nationals this year. "But," Coach Beatty is quick to point out, "the '89 track team is committed- the days of relying on the weight nucleus are over."

The other men's co-captain is Senior Jim Clark, who was converted to the 400 meter intermediate hurdles this winter and subsequently finished 8th at the New Englands just two weeks later. Clark is also a member of this winter season's undefeated men's mile relay team, along with Sophomores Art McLear, Ben Monachino, and Freshman Ron Currie. Monachino is an excellent 400 meter runner; last season at the NESCAC meet he finished 7th with a time of 51.2 seconds, and this year he is gunning for 50. Anchoring the mile relay team is Ron Currie, a California junior college transfer and "the brightest star in the freshmen class," who according to Beatty is, "A real thoroughbred, beautiful to watch." Competing in the sprints and hurdles as well, Currie is going to have to come up big if the men's team is going to fulfill Beatty's expectations.

The 1989 Panther women's team also boasts a strong weight events squad, with an ever-improving Sonja Carey '91 bolstering their success in that department. A big reason for Middlebury's consistent strength in the shot and discus is assistant coach Lou Hotte. Hotte is, according to Beatty, "A really detailed coach, and a big reason for both teams' success."

Some of the other women's team standouts are co-captains Eliza Harding '91 and Senior Marie Bullock. A true natural, Harding never ran track in high school, but came out last year and did some real damage in the 400 meters and, after pumping iron all winter to strengthen her legs, plans to do the same in the triple jump. Marie leads through example and has been training hard for this season since the fall.

The real strength of the women's track team, due in part to Middlebury's strong cross-country program, lies in the distance events. Two of the top performers in this department are Sophomores Maria Hanson and Alex Benson; both have performed well, and are steadily improving in the 800 and 1500 meters. Coach Beatty believes a big determinant of the '89 women's success will be how Senior Caroline Biddle, (#2 on the X-C team), comes back from her leg injury. Another person that will be called upon in the 800 is Carrie Rocha, but it remains to be seen how Carrie will deal with the strain and fatigue of coming off of a demanding cross-country ski season.

The Middlebury track program as a whole is on the upswing. The 1989 men's and women's track squads will no longer rely on just 2 or 3 individuals. Nevertheless, without an all-weather, outdoor track to train on, the team will be at a disadvantage going into every meet. In two years Beatty hopes to have such a facility, and with two more strong recruiting classes, he foresees Middlebury becoming one of the real powers in New England track.

Panthers fall one game short of securing playoff berth

By R.C. Demerle

The pistons in the Panthers' smooth-running basketball machine have meshed well in their late-season drive, with the Panther's auto-Midd-bile rolling over their last two opponents.

Freshman Mike Baumann and Sophomore Jeff Smith put the pedal to the floor on offense, Junior Reid Smith and Senior Will Carey applied the brakes on defense, and then there were Junior Mike Gill and Senior Pat Torpey, whom everyone should start calling The Clutch Brothers. Gill spurred a 7-2 Panther rally late in the second half of last Thursday's battle against arch-rivals Williams, including hitting both ends of a one-and-one after a Williams time-out to ice him, sending the game into overtime knotted at 72-72.

In the extra frame, Williams led 76-75 *with* the ball and 19 seconds left until Pat Torpey deflected an Ephman pass to a motoring Jeff Smith for the breakaway lay-up and the lead. Williams called time-out but could only manage a John Conte 12-footer from the top of the key that deflected off the rim. The rest, as they say, is history.

This was a game of heroes. Down 10 points at half time (43-33) and 12 (51-39) with 16 minutes to go, the Panthers submitted perhaps their guttiest performance of the year in the second half. Mike Baumann (16 pts, 7 rebounds) started it with a baseline jumper off a Rou Halfkenny feed. After Williams' Bill Melchionni buried a tough jumper of his own with two Panthers in his face, Jeff Smith (8 of 13 FG's, team-high 19 pts) trotted down court and buried a three-point jumper.

Coach Reilly then inserted backup center Will Carey into the front court alongside of center Reid Smith and Baumann, moving Gill to the back court. Carey (5 pts, 8 all-purpose rebs), the Chairman of the Boards, allowed Williams only two successful follow-up shots in the final 15 minutes. The Ephmen offense scored a mere four points in the next four minutes. When Jeff Smith took a Torpey pass for a breakaway lay-up, Williams had seen their once-healthy lead starved to a meager 3 points, 55-52 and 12:05 remaining.

The Panthers wouldn't let their hosts, who routed them earlier in the year at the Pantherdome, lead by any more than five points in the 2nd half. After Williams' top gun Conte (game-high 22 pts) drained a baseline jumper to put his team up 70-65 with 2:18 showing, the Panthers shoved their basketball machine into overdrive. Gill (15 pts) tossed in a bomb from the Land of Three just 12 seconds later.

The Middlebury defense was so stifling that Williams was barely able to find air to breathe, let alone room to shoot. With a little over a minute left Jeff Smith scrambled after a loose ball, then made a pass while still on the floor to Baumann for a glass-kisser to knot the game at 70-70. Williams only two points in the final two minutes of regulation came on a Melchionnin follow-up with 35 seconds to go.

Gill steamed upcourt on the Panther's ensuing possession and was fouled. He nailed both ends of the one-and-one despite a raucous crowd and the game entered overtime. Williams shooting woes continued as they scored only four points in the extra period. Including the last 5 minutes of regulation, the Panther defense allowed Williams 10 points in 10 minutes. Guard Garcia Major (1 of 5 free throws) had an opportunity to increase the Williams' lead but could not connect on the front end of the one-and-one. Reid Smith snagged the rebound; then, 71 seconds later, came Torpey's tip to Jeff Smith which put the game on ice, 78-76. Make that seven straight wins for the Panthers and 8 of their last 9.

In a game where the Panthers knew beforehand that they had not been selected for post-season play, Middlebury took their frustrations out on the New England College Pilgrims, routing them 89-70. Despite a blazing 9-1 finish, the Panthers came up as the ninth team in an 8-team tournament for the second year in a row. Brandeis College was selected over Middlebury.

Thus, the Panther's Junior members stepped aside to allow their elder statesmen play in the final game of their collegiate career, and the Seniors responded dramatically, combining for a colossal 42 points. Center Will Carey, co-captain forward Parker Ward, and guard Pat Torpey went out in a blaze of glory. By manhandling the hapless Pilgrims, the Seniors departed Middlebury basketball riding the crest of an eight-game winning streak and 9

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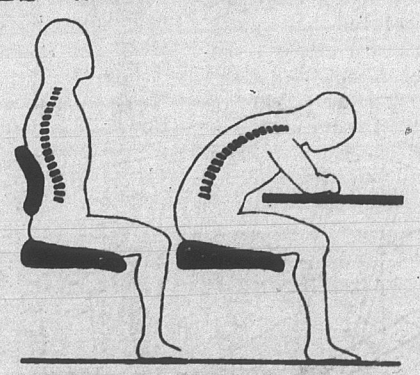

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Women's Lax

(continued from page 15)

players that are already comfortable with the zone defense.

Coach Hopkinson is optimistic about the season and feels that "one of [the team's] main assets is its tough mental attitude." It is this work ethic that has brought the team much of its success. She also feels that if this year's offensive players can replace the efforts of last year's strong players, and if the defense can re-establish its ability to shut down key individuals, the season will be just as successful as last year.

The team will be facing many of its traditional rivals. A round-robin tournament at Wellesley College on March 18-19 will help get the team working together at an early point in the season. Hopkinson feels that this will definitely help the team in its preparation. They open in Florida over Spring Break against Trinity and Colby. Other challenges lie in games against UVM, Bowdoin, Williams, and St. Lawrence.

Hoping to overcome the loss of many dominating players, this year's women's lacrosse team will have the same relentless attack and strength in the goal, as they head into the new season. They should be considered a legitimate threat to repeat as N.I.A.C. champions.

Men's Hoop

(continued from page 17)

out of their final 10.

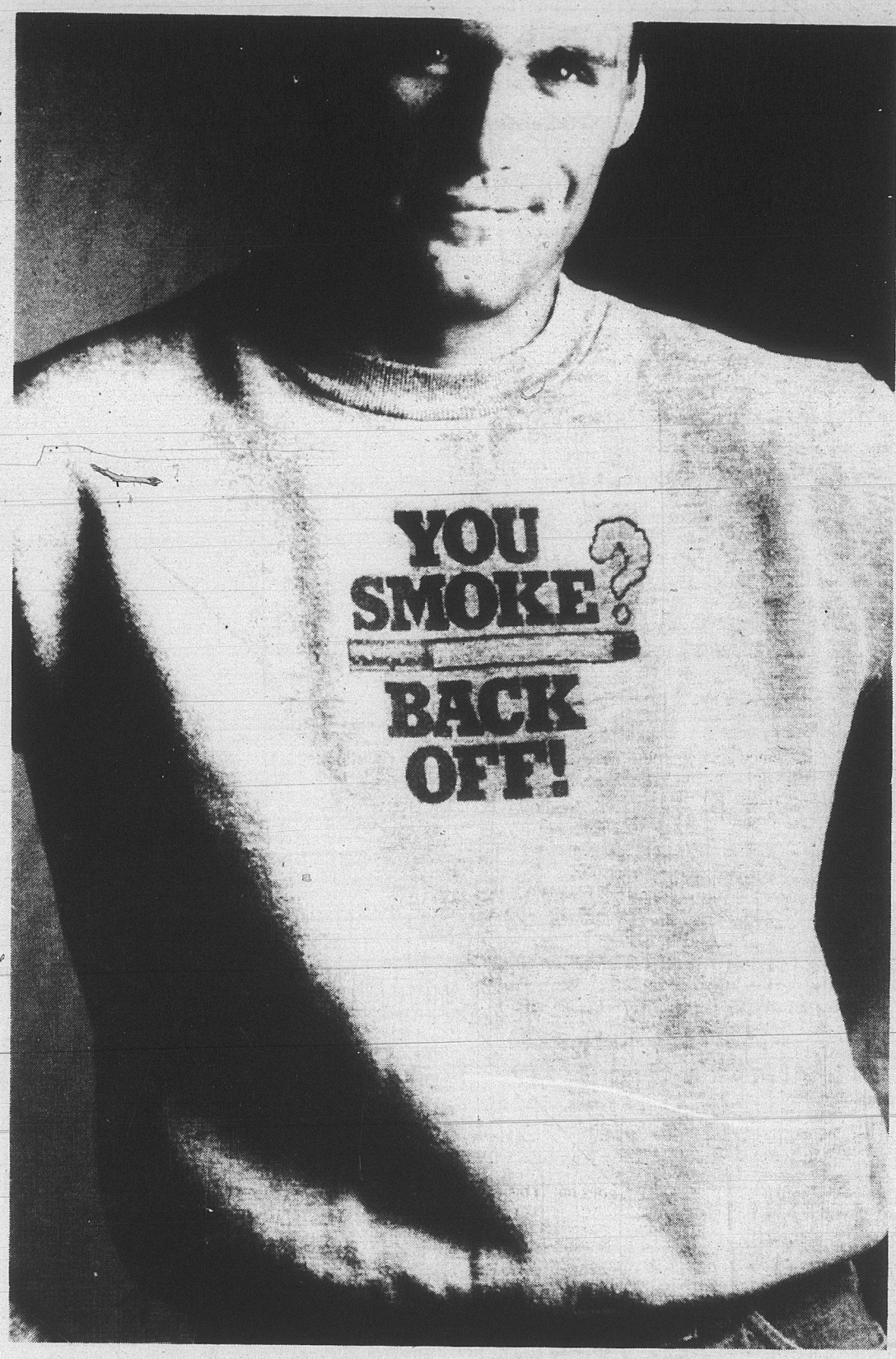
The tip-off was the closest New England could get to Middlebury. The Panthers took some time getting their offense on track (9-6 at the 15:30 mark) but once the shots started to fall, the Pilgrims fell far behind. A patented Torpey steal at the midway point of the first half put the good-guys up 20-15. Another Torpey tip resulted in a Gill feed right back to the lumbering senior guard on the break and a 28-20 lead.

Torpey then went to the air, launching his ICNS's (Intercontinental Net Scorchers) from the adjacent area code. A three-point blast at the 3:28 mark put the score at 33-27 Panthers. Torpey made yet another theft with one minute remaining in the half, burying a three-pointer twenty seconds later. Middlebury coasted into the intermission, leading 39-29.

Torpey set the tone for the second half as well, with a steal resulting in a Ward jumper and a Pilgrim time out only one minute into the half. Torpey then fed Gill down low for a 51-35 lead. The seniors had a lot of fun at the expense of the pathetic Pilgrims.

Center Will Carey, the human anchor for the second unit, simply had his way with the New England front court. No one was big enough to stop him. The Big Fella finished with a season-high 19 points to end a fine career. Parker Ward scored 8 points against the Pilgrims' slow-to-rotate defense but Ward's final game is not an indication of what he has meant to the Panthers this season. Relegated to the bench at the beginning of the season, the co-captain refused to consider the move a demotion and proved to be the Panther's most consistent offensive force off the bench during the Dark Ages of the early season.

Will Carey put the game on ice with his two free throws at the 2:37 mark, Midd leading 81-65. At this point Reilly emptied his bench and let the seniors come off the floor to the applause of their teammates.



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This is to excuse _____ from today's homework / exam / paper as s/he was in Mister Up's last night. We were discussing all the interesting things s/he has learned in your class and before we knew it, it was 2 a.m. Please forgive me as it is my fault the homework / exam / paper was not completed. I promise it will never happen again.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Does a canon of "great books" really exist?

Editor's note: In January 31's New York Times, *the president of Bard College wrote an opinion entitled "Aristotle, Tolstoy, Donald Duck, Beast Literature" concerning the "nonsense" courses he sees throughoout the most prestigious colleges in the country, including Wellesly, Vassar, NYU, and Middlebury. Assistant professor of philosophy, Richard Arthur, who taught the "Hitchhicker's Guide to Philosophy" Freshman Seminar this winter, replied to the piece in February 25's* Times. *We thought you'd be interested...*

By Leon Botstein

A debate now raging in our colleges and universities concerns the kind of general education that all students, no matter what their special interests, ought to receive in college. On one side are demands for a coherent "core" program, centered on a canon of great books and required courses in the traditions of the West. On the other side are arguments that deny that a canon exists or can be formed.

The publicity given this debate has masked several ironies. Did a system of coherent requirements ever really exist? Is our nostalgia for such requirements appropriate? Alumni reunions easily cast doubt on the long term influence of having forced freshman and sophomores to read some Aristotle and Tolstoy.

Vulgarity, ignorance, venality, and philistinism seem to have flourished despite a presumably healthy dose of great books and history courses. Do we have any evidence that requiring this or that course or book will really help students turn into responsible and thoughtful citizens?

But the central irony is that the debate deals with less than 20 percent of an undergraduate's time in the classroom. The fuss is all about what a student does before he or she majors in a field and fills out the rest of the college program with elective courses taken from a huge list organized by specialized fields and departments.

When one looks at the list of elective courses at colleges and universities, it becomes clear how similar these institutions are, their self-serving rhetoric not withstanding.

The good news is that much of what is offered is pretty reasonable and obvious. What is comparatively new is that every college now offers a healthier selection of courses dealing with African, Asian and Latin American cultures, African American history, new literary theories and subjects in which the issues of gender is central, as well as courses that validate popular culture. Harvard, for example, has a course titled "The Origins of Rock and Roll" taught by the same individual who teaches a course on Mozart and Haydn.

At Middlebury Freshmen can choose from seminars on war and peace in the nuclear age, language, Shakespeare, probability and women in literature . . .

The bad news is that the list of courses grows seemingly without restraint. This explosion of options has led to some odd results.

Among the choices open to a Wellesley undergraduate who must fulfill an expository writing requirement are courses on Jerusalem, Homer and Virgil, and fairy tales. Another course, "Two on the Aisle," that "will examine selected films and television programs from an anthropological perspective" also fulfills the requirement. Or the student could choose a "whodunit" course about the "addiction" of reading detective fiction, or a course that purports to answer the question "Why is Donald Duck so much smarter than the criminal Beagle Boys?"

At Middlebury, freshmen can choose from seminars on war and peace in the nuclear age, language, Shakespeare, probability and women in literature, "A Hitchhiker's Guide to Philosophy" and "Literary California."

A Vassar student eager to study sociology beyond the one semester introductory course can take the "Sociology of Sociability" on the "motivations, rituals, dynamics and functions of non-task oriented groupings such as dinner parties, dances, fiestas, cocktail parties and similar gatherings."

A New York University student looking for basic elective courses in philosophy is given a choice among courses on the philosophy of religion, law, medicine, ethics, politics, "Life and Death" and a course entitled "Experiencing Sports: A Philosophical and Cultural Analysis." The discriminating reader may well find similar examples in Bard's catalogue.

This undifferentiated morass of options continues to grow while the heated debate on general education goes on. This is regrettable, since it is only after faculty members begin to ask searching questions about how to coordinate with faculty from other fields that some sense of coherence and priority will be achieved.

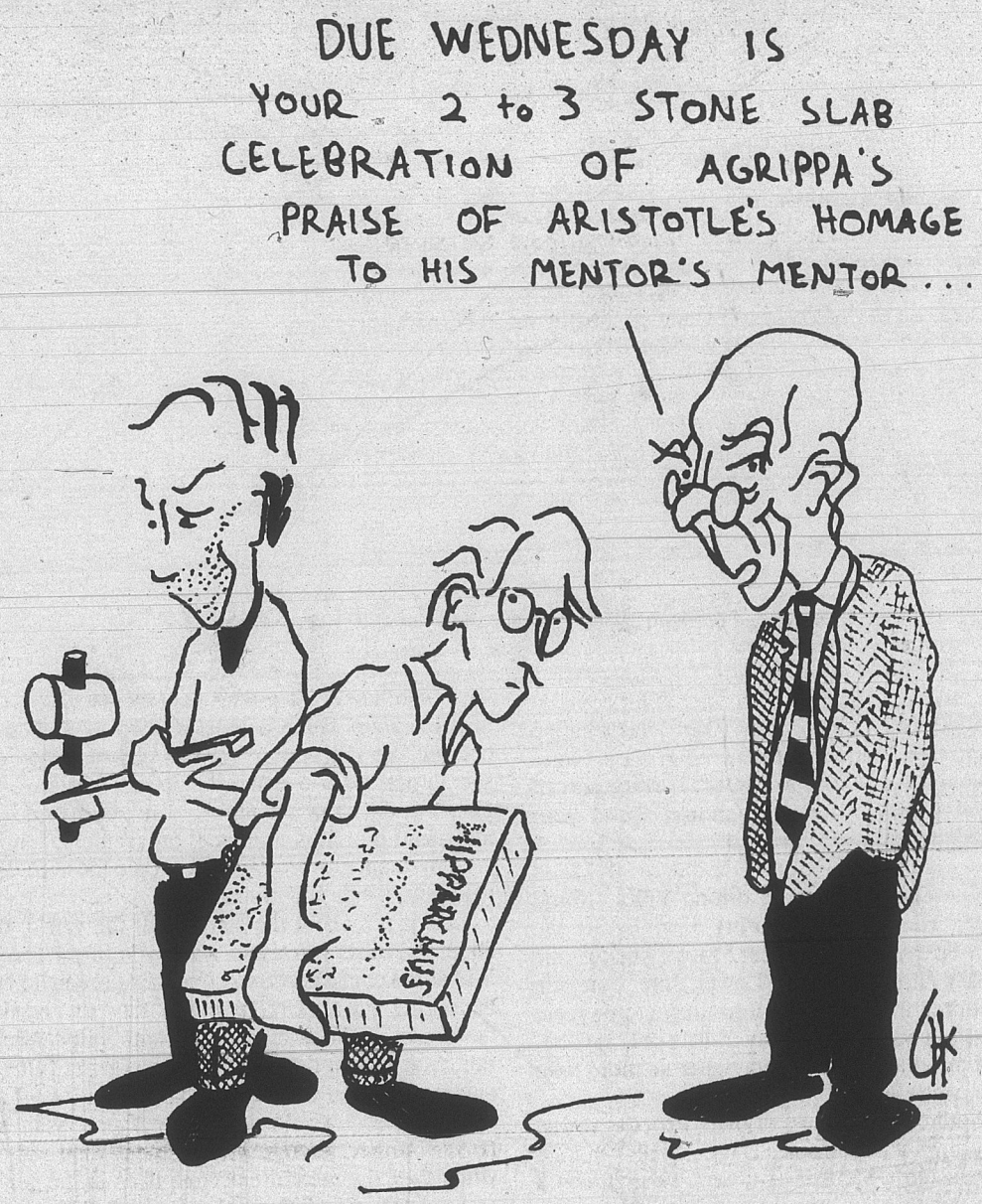
The issue is not that any particular course is, in and of itself, illegitimate. Novel, even catchy, ways may be needed to interest students on traditional subjects. In Harvard's core curriculum, one can elect a fascinating looking course, "Beast Literature," about talking animals in literature — again from a list that includes courses on the literature of the Middle Ages, Shakespeare, and "Tragic Drama and Human Conflict."

This is the issue: Given the poor quality of high school preparation, problems in literacy and the massive ignorance of history, literature, philosophy, economics and the sciences among nonscientists (not to speak of the arts), we may not afford to be so cavalier.

Colleges must begin to touch the sacred territory of departmental course offerings, both electives and those required for a major. There is a need to deal not only with the Western tradition but with the non-Western materials and also to have students encounter new and vigorous fields and methods, whether derived from feminism of literary theory. There is enough time and enough room in four years of college.

Common sense and restraint would go a long way in solving the need to reconcile tradition with the legitimate demand that college curriculum reflect diversity and today's global realities.

College ought to be more that a few requirements and a random accumulation of courses — often artificially defined as part of a "major." The solution rest not only with a common core and general requirements but with the long overdue pruning of courses. Too many individual courses now offered in our colleges and universities have been in need, for decades, of scrutiny and rethinking with respect to their utility and necessity in a college education.



To the Editor:
(of the New York Times)

It was hard to find any sustained argument in Leon Botstein's article on the debate about what constitutes a sound college education. The title of his piece leads one to expect some sort of critical analysis of the contents of the curriculums of some of our colleges and universities.

Mr. Botstein appears to feel that it is enough just to list some of the topics and course titles — among them the freshman seminar I taught last term at Middlebury College, "A Hitchhiker's Guide to Philosophy" — and then to dismiss them as an "undifferentiated morass of options."

Graduates of my course, having gained an entrance to an illustrious philosophical tradition through the back door of Douglas Adams's comic cosmological "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," would have learned at least two lessons: that profound issues lurk in even the most unlikely seeming places ("you can't judge a book by its cover"), and that there is a great deal of difference between a few cheap rhetorical points and constructing an intelligent argument.

More disturbing is Mr. Botstein's implicit "solution." Having granted that faculty members should "begin to ask searching questions about what to offer within their fields and how to coordinate with faculty from other fields," and also that "Novel, even catchy, ways may be needed to interest students in traditional subjects," he takes it all back with a casual "we may not afford to be so cavalier."

"Colleges," he says, "must begin to touch the sacred territory of departmental course offerings . . . The solution rests not only with a common core and general requirements but with the long overdue pruning of courses."

Who is going to do that pruning? "Colleges." Now this can hardly mean the departments, who are presumably busy protecting their "sacred territory," so Mr. Botstein — himself the president of Bard College — must mean college presidents and their staffs. Judging from the lack of care with which Mr. Botstein treats curricular problems here, this is hardly an enticing prospect.

Richard Arthur
Middlebury, Vt., Feb. 10, 1989

Are we scholars or alcoholics?

To the Editor:

Imagine this: You are in your home, asleep, late at night. You awaken to the sound of someone trying to open your front door.

This is just another Monday night in Middlebury, a student too inebriated to find the door of his own home. One more in a long series of stories of young people getting into trouble after drinking too much.

I am saddened that this theme seems more recurrent than ones of academic excellence, and I am beginning to wonder if we are graduating a generation of scholars or a generation of alcoholics.

As a residential community of scholars and citizens, surely this topic is not beyond the bounds of discourse. We must turn our attention to discussion to fend off the tragedies to come.

Elizabeth Karnes
Language Schools

Let's not ignore the alarms

To the Editor:

The threat of a fire in a college dormitory is dangerous enough, and the negligent attitude of the majority of Middlebury's dorm inhabitants makes it even more frightening. The Gifford fire alarm sounded at approximately seven a.m. on Sunday morning, February 26; the number of students that evacuated the building was amazingly low. If the fire had been more threatening to all the floors in Gifford, the consequences may have been very serious.

A reorientation of fire drill procedures (e.g. both primary and alternate exits, and responsible conduct) might be helpful in reminding students of the severity of the dangers of fire. Also, is there someone who is responsible for making certain that everyone has evacuated the dorm?

Although Winter Carnival festivities, as well as the probability of a false alarm, may have made people less than willing to go outside the building, it is just this type of situation that indicates a need for more rigid direction in fire procedure.

Maureen Wilson
Bridget Fitzgerald
Heidi Locke
Class of '89

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Founded 1905

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OPINIONS

Letters to the Editor

Jihads of intolerance

To the Editor:

I found it particularly ironic that last week's letter to the editor from James A. Perreault concerning Geoffrey Coffey's "Swine of the Week" column appeared on the same page as the editorial strongly defending Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" and the freedom of speech. Perreault's letter amounted to no more than a tart, well written foray on his own selective censorship. The only difference between Perreault's attack on Coffey and the Ayatollah's attack on Rushdie was that his was motivated by intellectual snobbery rather than religious fanaticism. Perreault's jihad against Coffey was dripping with the same intolerance that has forced Rushdie into hiding.

The attack also alleged that the previous editor-in-chief was responsible for a supposed decline in the paper from, what Mr. Perreault was "told was once a truly outstanding college newspaper." Let me remind Mr. Perreault that it was he, some two paragraphs earlier, that accused Mr. Coffey of writing his articles "on the basis of hearsay, erroneous assumptions, and a minimal knowledge of the subject." Aren't you basing your assumptions on the very stuff Coffey is so horribly guilty of using?

It's relieving to find that we both share the belief that talent and intelligence exists on this campus, and indeed in the Campus. However, I feel it is only your biases that lead to exclude Coffey from your list of such people. If I was to let prejudice and bias invade my evaluation of the Campus' contributors I would not include Mr. Knapp or Mr. Tarn. As I try my hardest not to be afflicted by that curse I will always respect those two writers while I hope they respect my right to disagree with almost everything they have ever written in the Campus.

What I feel you miss Mr. Perreault is the tolerance and understanding to see that while you find "Apropos" and "Ink Reigns" such a "pleasure to read," others may prefer Mr. Coffey's "Swine of the Week." Individuals' differing opinions have similarly caused "The Satanic Verses" to sell out across this country while sparking riots in other countries.

And finally I believe we disagree on what is the worst type of intellectual. Where you found it necessary to crown the ever debonair and infinitely refined Coffey with this honor I do not believe I am in any position to point the finger at any individual. I simply feel that the worst type of intellectuals are those that blindly try to impress their beliefs on those of us who do not share their views or, because we suffer from a lack of sophistication or intellectual maturity, their preferences for particular authors.

If I had the power to appoint a Swine of the Week it would go to those who strive to suppress freedom of speech, whether the target be "Mein Kampf," "The Last Temptation of Christ," or "Swine of the Week." But there is no need to fear a "Swinish" crowning from me, Mr. Perreault, because if I ever got the honor it would probably go to Mr. Khomeini. Probably.

Peter Holmes à Court

It was just a movie, kids

It's amazing but true. There are still people in this country that think "Easy Rider" has a happy ending, that "Mississippi Burning" is a funny movie, and that "Animal House" is some sort of cultural guide to how you should spend your college years.

Last week there were a number of "food fights" waged in various dining halls around campus. The two most worthy of citing are the one on Friday night in Upper Proctor and the one Saturday during dinner in Lower. John Emerson has addressed the issue from the employees' point of view. Unfortunately, this is only one angle from which to see food fights as more than messy, wasteful fun.

At Saturday's dinner in Lower Proctor, it was hard to miss the spectacle. There it was — a Last Supper sized table full of diners. First it was a baked potato, then meatloaf. A liquid of some kind. Then there were the usual, unimaginative and offensive profanities, audible by even those most distant from the debacle. Interestingly, the president of a fraternity was sitting at the table, doing nothing about this drunken spectacle. (Aren't frats always defending themselves by maintaining their dedication to the moral fiber of the community?) It got so that the usual din of lower proctor faded a level or two as if to accommodate the scene. Various comments from spectators were overheard, none of them applauding the show the rebels were putting on for their, and our (it is assumed) amusement. Innocent bystanders were hit, and people close to the table left, meals half eaten.

This is not about the starving of the world, or about the mess you make when you throw food. It is about consideration, a word that seems to be becoming more foreign every day to certain members of the Middlebury community. Next time you've got that baked potato or fist full of macaroni aimed at someone, just think of what mom and dad would do to you if you were at home. Further, anyone who tolerates food fights when they see them are accomplices in the general acceptance of this behavior. Speak up, you might find that you're not alone.

Bluto got kicked out of college for incidents like food fights. The Campus proposes that immediate and automatic suspension is the minimum acceptable penalty for engaging in food throwing at Middlebury's dining halls.

Keep Carnival up, but get prices down

Winter Carnival: It's the big weekend at Middlebury, a time for skiing, parties, and all around activity, from the Snow Bowl to the ice rink to the cash register at Lyon's Place. But for a lot of people, Carnival is felt less in the fun and more in the diminishing bank account. The expense of a combo ticket and a ball ticket (times two if you're buying for your date) can add up fast, and as the totals rise, more students feel the pinch. Winter Carnival is no longer an event in which everyone can afford to participate.

It seems that the Carnival Committee gets too bogged down by looking backwards to look ahead and recognize the problem confronting students. A budget is determined by looking at figures for past Carnivals and accounting for increases in costs of food and security; it seems that the idea of decreasing costs is not on the committee's mind. But it should be. This year, fewer students bought the $22 combo ticket than in the past. The dropping numbers of tickets sold and the rising numbers in the cost figures should tell the committee something: Carnival costs too much.

Tickets for individual events, such as Night Club and First Night, are offered without the extras included in the combo ticket, and this is a step in the right direction. But for students who are able to attend only a few events, social life on Carnival weekend may be limited. All students suffer the inconvenience of early closings at Proctor but it isn't fair to exclude people from after-dinner entertainment. Because fraternities are, in theory, not allowed to hold parties that weekend, little weekend entertainment is available to non-ticket holders.

The goals of Carnival need to be rethought. It is a weekend for everyone, not just those with money to shell out. The committee should look into ways to reorganize events or rearrange the budget to make it this way. Think about where the money goes. Surely a lower-priced combo ticket would be a worthwhile result of a ball without ice sculpture punch bowls, wouldn't it?

Burning "Mississippi"

To the Editor:

The headline to Yolande Smallwood's movie review of Feb. 24: "*Mississippi Burning* misrepresents the facts," should have read: "Yolande Smallwood misrepresents the facts."

The director did not intend *Mississippi Burning* to be an historical account of the incident, as Smallwood claims. Thus it seems weak that she criticizes the movie on factual grounds. The movie did, however, attempt to recreate the tense racial atmosphere in the deep South in 1964. There is no doubt that the blacks in backwoods Mississippi in that time period were an intimidated and subdued minority, and that they were victims of the scare tactics of the Ku Klux Klan. Blacks in rural Mississippi did live in impoverished conditions but were not inclined to put up any resistance to white violence, even though Yolande likes to think that they did. Yes, the townspeople were extremely uncooperative with the F.B.I., and the case was solved in the face of massive local resistance. But no, the swamp scene in which the agents look so out of place was not an attempt to establish stereotypes as Smallwood claims; it was a true scene from the case.

Ms. Smallwood also seems to take much pleasure in discrediting the character that Gene Hackman portrays. She accuses him of thinking mostly about how to seduce the Deputy's wife. Had she paid any attention to the movie at all, Smallwood would have realized that this was the type of practical agent Hackman played, one who realized how to conduct an investigation in the old South. Even as the woman was in Hackman's arms, he was asking her questions about the murders.

There was no fairy tale ending to this movie as Ms. Smallwood claims. The black preacher at the funeral in the end spoke a sermon of anger and frustration, a premonition of the coming struggle in the South. The ending of the movie was not a happy one. It simply pointed out the beginning of a time when people of all kinds spoke out against racism in the South.

The most blatant fallacy of the review was the last sentence in which Smallwood states: "I will be sorry to see Hackman accept an award that was gained at the expense of black Americans." If anything, this movie served to educate people on the racial injustice that existed in the South at that time. I doubt very many people left the theater sympathetic to white racism.

It is unfortunate that Smallwood let her own preconceptions about *Mississippi Burning* distort her review in the Campus. *Mississippi Burning* was not intended to be a documentary, but rather a film which leaves the audience with a sense of the horrible conditions in the South in the 1960's. Perhaps if Ms. Smallwood had entered the theater with an open mind and experienced the deep feelings evoked by the movie, rather than close-mindedly criticizing every little factual error, she might have been able to present a more objective view.

Patrick Burton

Swine of the Week:

La belle swine

By Geoffrey T. Coffey

Well, it's happened again — France is in a frenzy. Every few years, the French people go absolutely mad over the state of their language. Generally, the uproar is directed against the intrusion of American words into *le français grand*, those words which sneak across the Atlantic and contribute to the growing vocabulary of French Americanisms. For instance, Sorbonne Professor René Etiemble published a book in 1964 called *Parlez-Vous Franglais?*, in which he rants against the American invasion; such words as blue-jean, best-seller, swank, weekend, striptease, and knockout are ranked alongside 5,000 other heathen words which have breached the Maginot line of French lexicon like so many Huns let loose upon the maidens of Paris. If such barbarians aren't stopped at the borders, Etiemble warns, the language of France will be dead of the pox in fifty years.

The most formidable opponent to linguistic changes and additions of any kind has always been the French Academy, founded in 1634 to act as the official guardian of the national language. They have gone so far as to ban certain words from formal usage, and have instructed the French people to use the Academy's own formally contrived substitutes. This is a difficult thing to do. Words are produced in a beautiful evolution which is at once natural and manmade — they cannot be manufactured by bald little men in Paris apartments. I distinctly doubt that the Academy will ever come up with a better word for weekend than "*le weekend.*" We Americans just seem to have a knack for *le mot juste* — there is no way to stop vocabularistic Darwinism. The evolution of words just happens, heedless to all efforts opposing it.

The enforcement of linguistic rigidity should be punishable by law, and the Academy is certainly guilty of this infraction. However this week's swine does not fall under that category. Unlike in their previous battles, the highly-conservative Academy is now facing an entirely new and unexpected enemy.

In a revolt against what they call "the complexity of French," the nation's elementary and junior high school teachers have called for a radical change in spelling that would rid their language of difficult rules which prove to be difficult for students to remember. For instance, they insist that the *accent circumflex*, which appears in such words as *trône* (throne) and *être* (the verb "to be"), should be discarded entirely. This accent was introduced in the 18th century, and is placed over vowels to show that they should be lengthened in speech. The teachers also want to scrap the "x" ending in plurals like *bureaux* (offices) and *chevaux* (horses), in favor of the more generic "s." Other proposed changes include the phonetic spelling of "ph" words (so that French philosophers would become *filosofes*) and the banishment of unexpected double consonants (for example, the noun *tradition* has one "n," while the adjective *traditionnel* has two).

As expected, and to their infinite credit, the Academy has been violently opposed to these people. As member Félicien Marceau thundered, "Reforms would be perilous, pointless, and puerile!" Or, even, take the warning of one nameless writer, a teacher, who warned his colleagues to "keep your filthy hands off our language." Either way, they are absolutely correct. The beauty of language is its very difficulty, its quirks, its exceptions to rules and alternatives to spellings. Take the very word itself: language. Could you force yourself to love a layn-gwij? What fun could you have if, say, today you caught only one fish, but tomorrow you couldn't catch ten fish?

Unfortunately, the Academy is not possessed of the same power it once wielded so mightily against Americanisms. Despite the fervent opposition to these teachers' demands from Academy members, linguistic purists, and even the Education Minister himself, Prime Minister Michel Rocard has instructed aides to begin examining ways of implementing the proposed reforms.

It's true that I'm not French, and so perhaps I shouldn't worry about what the fuzzy foreigners do with themselves. It doesn't matter — I can't help it. French may not be English, but language is certainly language, and I take great interest in what Ogden Nash once called "our wonderful orangutanguage." Language in its true form is a work of art — it cannot and should not be crimped, twisted, and bastardized for the sake of ease. If it were easy to carve a block of marble into a ten-foot Jesus, we'd all be doing it. By phoneticizing spelling and altering basic grammar, the French are essentially banning Renoirs, Van Goghs, and Picassos; they are filling the Louvre with color-by-the-number paintings, scribbled by four-year olds.

Congratulations, Michel Rocard. You have, by approving of these proposed changes, allowed a once-despicable institution (the Academy) to become the only possible saviour of your language. You have made an effort to prostitute your own native tongue (perhaps one of the most beautiful in the world, I might add) so that third-graders might have an easier time in school. You have sprayed graffiti upon that one form of art which all might master and few might destroy. If Paris symbolizes *le français*, then you might be represented by a horde of invading Nazis. You are, quite simply, a scourge to all living writers and linguists, and a menace to anyone even vaguely literate.

It gives me great pleasure, Mr. Rocard, to present to you the honorary mud-encrusted snout and twisted tail. *Monsieur Rocard, vous êtes le* swine *du semaine.*

Words are produced in a beautiful evolution which is at once natural and manmade — they cannot be manufactured by bald little men in Paris apartments.

Demand more than Rheingold and skiing

By Amy Hillier

I'll admit that the smiling Lowenbrau lion pouring himself a beer from a "MIDD" tap on the t-shirt is cute. "Brewed from the Finest Frats, Wildest Weekends and Sickest Skiers" reads the smaller type. Yes, that's January in Middlebury, Vermont. We who go here know that books play a role in our lives during the fall and spring semesters, or at least a larger role than they do in January. But anyone visiting our campus during our famous, or infamous, Winter Term would probably see the ski racks on most of the cars, hear the music and crowds from the fraternity houses, smell stale beer in all the dorms and conclude that all we do is party and rack our brains designing t-shirts with creative alliteration all year long. They might just believe that the back of the t-shirt, "All you can drink—$18,000 cover charge," is our school motto.

The Winter Carnival comedian Thursday night let us all know, however, that Middlebury is not the party capital of the world. We (or our parents) don't kiss the tuition checks goodbye with thoughts of Rhinegold in our heads. We pay for the academic excellence of this institution. Middlebury is a highly selective and outstanding small liberal arts college, or at least that's what the catalogue and most of us boast. As it stands, Winter Term does little to contribute to this academic quality.

Our "save Winter Term" campaign should become "fix Winter Term" because the Winter Term we have now isn't worth saving. We can't save the partying option for those four weeks—it's either an academically rigorous, but still fun Winter Term or two long, 14-week semesters. As a freshman, I have three more winters at stake in this discussion so I'm particularly concerned.

This winter I wrote and critiqued creative term papers for "Narrative of Biography." Because the class was considered the equivalent of EL 160 or 170 the twelve of us in the class as well as the professor had no choice but to work. We met for only six "contact" hours although field trips to UVM's Wilbur collection and the Sheldon Museum library brought us together for a greater part of the week than those three mornings. Friday and Saturday nights were free game for work and many of us could be found in the microfilm room or searching through the Vermont Collection on those evenings generally considered sacred.

Sure, I had hoped to at least come even with my investments in Snowbowl and Breadloaf ski passes, but my January was a productive one and the most rewarding of my six months here. I would have no complaints about the partying during Winter Term if it did not affect me. The 24-hours-of-play-time atmosphere made studying incredibly difficult, but I've come to accept that freshmen dorms don't promote good study habits. But now the faculty is voting on whether to recommend the abolition of our Winter Term and the persistent party–attitude is jeopardizing my opportunity to spend the next three Januaries in small classes studying some interesting topics in depth.

So the faculty needs to know that we're not holding them back from voting against our precious Winter Term with one hand while stubbornly clinging to a beer can with the other. It's time to show our professors that we're sincere about the Revitalized Winter Term Proposal . . . or it's time to adopt a two semester calendar.

Letters to the Editor

Demoralizing 'celebration'

To the Editor:

Last Thursday, the staff of the Dining Services prepared an unusual meal, a Cajun dinner with white table linen and other special details, to initiate Winter Carnival weekend. Sadly, a group of students whose "celebrating" had begun earlier in the day started a food fight, and the special dinner was left in shambles. Many workers, including those students who planned the meal with the Dining Services, had tried to offer a very special meal for all. They were quite demoralized. To their credit, some of the students involved in the fight stayed around for the cleanup, but the damage to morale could not be reversed.

There have been other incidents this year in which a few students have acted in ways that suggest disregard for employees of the College. Our employees work hard to provide the meals, cleaning, maintenance, grounds care, and other services that make Middlebury's residential environment pleasant, clean and safe. I express regrets to the College employees whose good work has been disregarded, undone, or destroyed.

I ask every student to please express your own strong disappointment if you see someone acting inconsiderately towards other members of our community. By doing this, you will help to sustain the sense of community that is so fragile yet important to this special place. You will also help ensure the continued good will of our neighbors in Addison County toward the students of Middlebury College.

John D. Emerson
Dean of the College

Olin Robison in 1989, seeing the cycle of college life

By Elizabeth Zale

With the advent of the new year, President Olin Robison expects the rigorous, ongoing cycle of college life to bring few radical changes in 1989.

In his fourteen years as President of Middlebury College, Robison has continually attempted to build consensus on campus. But the controversial, divisive issues that concern the college community today make this a difficult task.

Robison believes that "colleges are the radical democracies of our society," and he views his role as facilitating the natural processes of the community. He feels that establishing an effective consensus among different groups of the college makes it possible to deal with issues and concerns, and thereby reach viable solutions.

Robison's top priority is dealing with the issues and responsibilities that immediately confront him: "whatever is on my desk today." His focus is always changing. He said "there are rhythms to life in college," defined by certain unforgiving deadlines and events, which dictate his priorities. On a normal day he deals with approximately 100 items or issues.

The College president considers his primary responsibility "to enable the college to become sufficiently strong in fiscal ways so that we can create a community here in which a great many imaginative, intellectually alive and energetic people can do a lot of very good things."

Ensuring the financial well-being of the college and making sure that procedures are wise, fair-minded, and even-handed provides the supportive environment necessary for the college's success, Robison said. He considers it his duty to be constantly aware of what kind of commitments can be made in timely fashion while keeping the long-term financial goals of the college in sight.

Robison has seen many changes during his fourteen years in office. According to him, Middlebury is much better off financially now than in the past, able to meet all financial aid needs and have need-blind admissions. The College places approximately sixth among twenty-five comparable institutions in terms of salary/wage rates, he said, though 10 years ago Middlebury was rated twenty-fifth. The present capital gifts campaign that already exceeds its goal of $60 million is a tremendous leap from the $10 million campaign conducted the year before Robison came to Middlebury.

Events and issues have also resurfaced over the years, Robison said. This is the fourth time the value of winter term has been debated in the past fourteen years, for instance.

This lack of institutional memory results in previous issues being revived by students who weren't present for the discussion years earlier. The trustees are sometimes frustrated by the whole process, he said, because their terms of at least five years enable them to have a more linear, long-range perspective on issues, and it's tiresome to reactivate issues they have seen resolved.

Time is a scarce commodity for Robison. "Time is inelastic, and in the end I have to decide how to spend it," he said. Robison is on campus Monday through Wednesday. He then usually travels on Thursday and Friday and returns for the weekend. He tries to attend as many campus events as possible, he said, but "it is inevitable that a person will be criticized for having failed to do certain things, having failed to be in certain places."

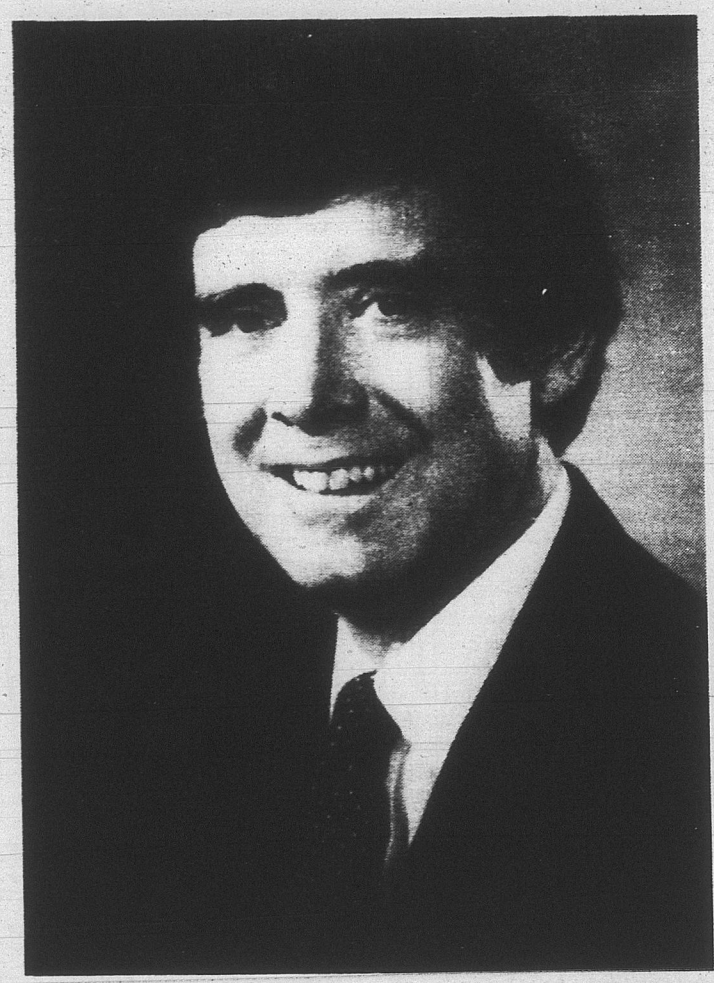
It is essential that the President attends certain functions, but he remarked, "when I'm very tired and weary and criticized for not doing certain things, I often think how sad it is that such a large percentage of the President's job is only important if he or she fails to do it."

The time Robison spends away from the college is spent carefully, "doing things that have to be done by the President, because if they're not done by the President they won't get done or cannot be done," he said. Being less involved in day-to-day events and issues of the college doesn't mean indifference, he said.

Keeping alumni interest and support elevated is one of Robison's top priorities. "If we are going to think of ourselves as a broad extended family, and that when you leave here you simply leave physically, you don't leave emotionally . . . it's important that we have this elaborate set of programs to keep that up." Robison sees the maintainence of alumni enthusiasm and connections to the college as critical in importance. "How important? I can't tell you—I don't have a Richter scale. But I do know that the failure to do it means a serious price to be paid."

One of President Robison's major concerns at this time is overseeing the capital gifts campaign, which currently totals $66 million, to its termination in December 1989. Another is the March 1990 reaccreditation review. He has recently chosen five task forces, comprised of trustees, students, faculty and staff, to complete an intensive 15 month review before the reaccreditation committee arrives next spring.

He plans to travel to the Soviet Union at least once or twice within the next 12 months. One purpose of these visits is to negotiate further expansion of the American Collegiate Consortium's undergraduate exchange. Prospects are good: the Soviet State Committee on Education has decided to make this program the prototype for future exchanges. Hopefully the number of Soviet participants will now increase, as well as the number of participating American colleges. Robison is also working on a separate agreement with Moscow State University to augment exchange possibilities.



Olin Robison (file photo)

Robison views his role as facilitating the natural processes of the community

In January, the President traveled to Washington, D.C. for a gathering of all 56 Soviet exchange students in the program, who met with various heads of state and toured establishments such as the Capitol building and the Smithsonian Institute.

Some people have expressed the opinion that Robison does not make himself available to address student concerns individually. He counters this charge with the declaration that he does not know any student who has requested an appointment with him and not gotten it.

A few years ago he reserved one afternoon a week for open office hours, he said, but he found that the students "would come to me if they didn't want to go to the Deans or if they had gotten the 'wrong' answer from a Dean." Robison finally concluded that, while open hours "kept me up on a certain kind of student gossip, it wasn't a wise use of time."

His perceived distance from the larger issues presently gripping the college, such as the fraternity question or the winter term debate, is a source of some distress in the community. Robison is in touch with these issues, but dislikes expressing personal opinions about conflicts on campus because "the issue is not my view. The issues are the issues that are on the table."

He predicts that by revealing his views the nature of the discussion would evolve into a argument reacting to his opinions, drifting away from addressing the problem itself. Most of these issues are eventually resolved by trustee decisions.

President Robison claims that "academic institutions practically enshrine indecision," and works toward "some determinative effect on the direction in general of the institution."

"I'd like people to say that my presidency was a time during which the college had direction and I made decisions," he said.

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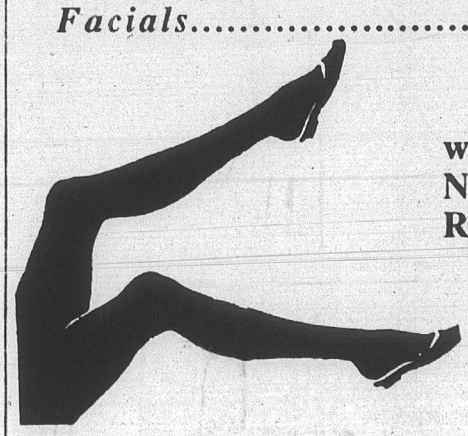

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South African Scholarship Fund provides black Scholars the opportunity for education, Spencer says

By Antonia deVegh

"The situation in South Africa illuminates to a very high degree basic human problems such as poverty, racism and oppression . . . the South Africa Scholarship Fund provides American students with an opportunity to affect change directly,"said John Spencer, professor of history, to the Student Government Association on behalf of the College's involvement with the Open Society Scholars Fund.

Spencer addressed the SGA in an effort to raise awareness about an issue that has shifted from the forefront of media coverage and the American public's consciousness.

According to Spencer, the program was instituted by the New England Board of Higher Education during the spring of 1986 in response to the growing turmoil and strife within South Africa. It provides, in conjunction with over 40 institutions of higher learning, scholarships for young black South Africans for study at any one of the five "open" non-racial universities.

The fund is an effort to provide assistance and encouragement to disadvantaged black students who will one day assume important leadership roles in their country, and to deepen American students' understanding of the South African dilemma said Spencer.

For the last three years the College has provided scholarships for three black South Africans: Stephen Sihlangu, a B.A. candidate in Education at the University of Witwatersrand, Itani Magwaba, a B.S. candidate in mathematics at Rhodes University and Amiena Bohardien, a Bachelor of Commerce candidate at the University at CapeTown. Sihlangu and Magwaba both plan to teach after earning their degrees.

The government sponsored university system in South Africa, conducted under the policy of Apartheid since 1961, is slowly becoming democratized by the five "open " universities, Spencer said. These institutions, Rhodes University and the Universities of CapeTown, Natal, Western Cape and Witwatersrand actively recruit and accommodate students and faculty members of all races .

Spencer added that,while receiving state financing, these universities are autonomous institutions with independent governing boards which strive to retain their place as nearly the only location where the right to assemble and protest has been preserved under the government imposed nationwide state of emergency.

Even in the face of punitive government subsidy cutbacks the "open" universities have resisted regulations restricting the political activities of members of the university community and have won an important Supreme Court decision which declares the regulations invalid, said Spencer.

Spencer, co-chairman of the South Africa subcommittee of the New England Board of Higher Education and soon to be chair-person of its Steering Committee, described the South African government's discriminatory educational policy as diminishing black enrollment at the university level.

The government does not supply adequate equipment, facilities or teachers to its segregated primary and secondary schools. According to Spencer, it spends seven times more on white pupils than on black pupils. When blacks do reach the University level long commuting distances to the homelands in which they are forced to live and the dire poverty they face there further hampers their chances for academic success.

The "open" or integrated universities seek to correct this unjust policy by providing remedial help to those students who need it and by implementing a multi-racial recruitment plan that promises to increase black enrollment to its proportion in the population. They also give black students first priority in housing accommodations in order to relieve the stress caused by commuting and to enrich their social lives in an integrated environment.

Middlebury's Board of Trustees has pledged to match, two-for-one, every dollar raised on campus in support of the scholarship fund. $2800 is needed to continue funding the three students presently sponsored by Middlebury, said Spencer. Donations are still being accepted in Dean John McCardell's office.

Gay/Lesbian Alliance provides needed support

By Catherine Cardwell

A student recently formed MiLGA, the Middlebury Lesbian/Gay Alliance, in order to provide support for homosexual students, faculty and staff on campus and to promote education and awareness of the homosexuals' situation here.

The objective of the group, according to Matt Reed '91, the group's leader and originator, is to get people talking and to help them realize that the homosexual population on campus is just another minority--a group of people with different sexual preferences rather than a different color of skin, nationality or sex.

"The 'isms' are very much related: racism, sexism, et cetera," Reed said. "We listen to President Robison and the declarations from Old Chapel which tell us how we should nurture the minorities on campus, but no one ever mentions the homosexual minority," he said.

According to Economics Professor Richard Cornwall, the faculty advisor of the group, "the reluctance to deal, on all levels, with the [homosexual] issue is a contributing factor to the problems here on campus."

MiLGA advocates increased awareness and discussion of this minority, Cornwall said. He compares the homosexuals' situation to the Afro-Americans' situation. "The risk of being labeled racist is enormous now. This represents a very significant achievement of the civil rights movement which took over 60 years. The homosexual movement is very far away from this point in its history, but at least it has begun."

It is this fear of discrimination and persecution which has kept 90 percent of the homosexual population "in the closet," Cornwall said. One of the purposes of MiLGA, therefore, is, in addition to promoting awareness on campus, to provide a place to come out *to* and a reason to come out *for*, he said.

"The group would like to make it safe to be Gay or Lesbian here, at Middlebury, which it very much is *not* right now, Cornwall said.

The group is already becoming involved on campus. They sponsored a speech on "The Gay Movement: From Where? To Where?" by David Scondras, a Boston City Councilor Thursday.

Reed said he began thinking about forming a group since last spring, but only began to pool support this September. MiLGA is not, however, the first Gay/Lesbian Alliance to be formed at Middlebury College. Five years ago there was another similar group which dissolved because of lack of interest or willingness on the part of students to become involved.

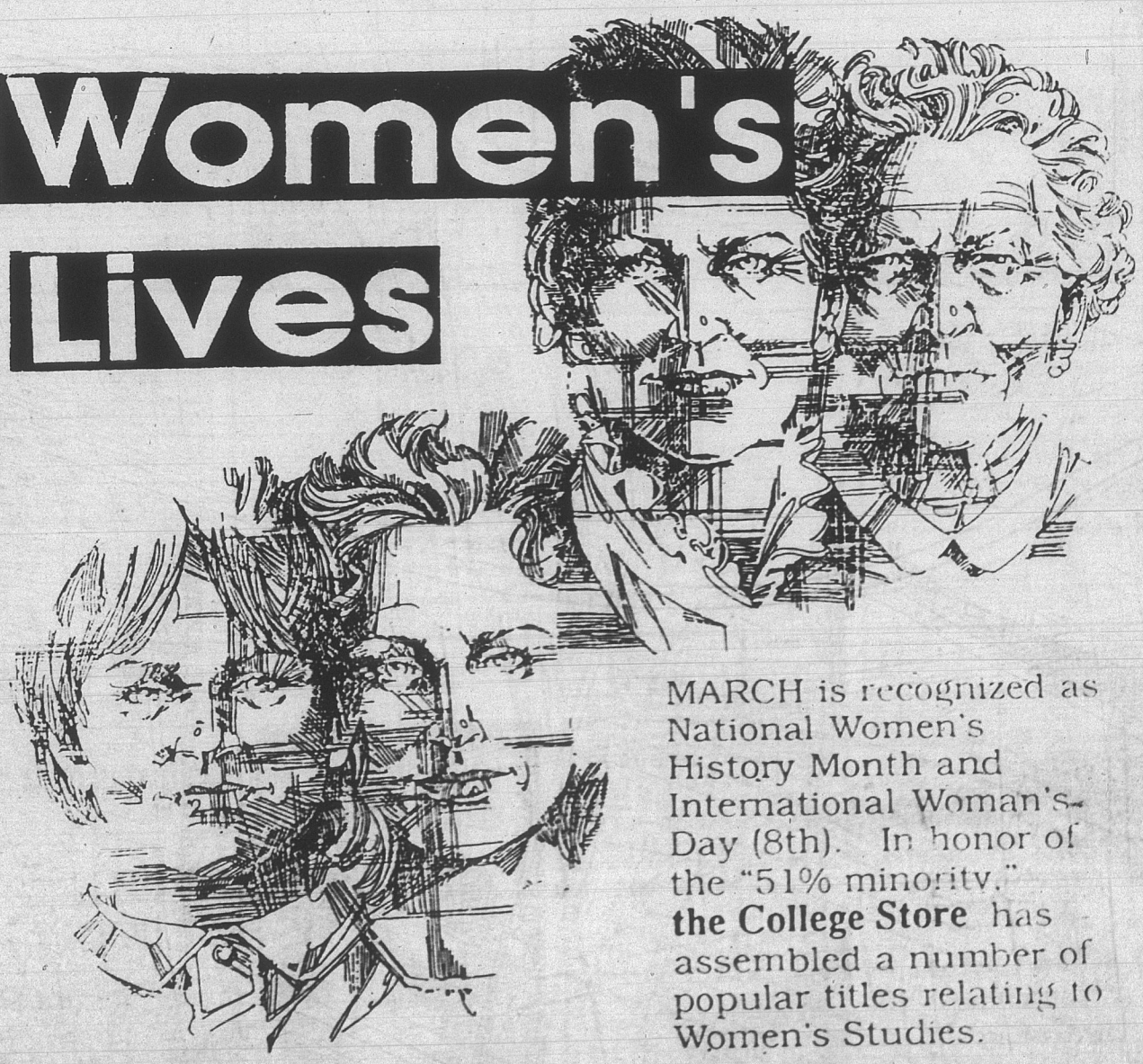
MiLGA emphasizes that all are welcome at the meetings, which are usually Monday nights in Hillcrest. Cornwall cited the straight members of the group as an important additions to the discussions. In previous years, straight students and faculty were not involved as they are now; Cornwall calls them "a positive new sign."

"I think the group is going strong and things are going to start happening," Reed said. "Some interesting dialogue is going to begin around here. Anyone is welcome--we're completely laid back."

Wanted! Copy Editro.

If the prospect of coming into the Campus at 12:00 Wednesday nights and readin through the entire paper interests you,. read on. We are looking for a copy editor who has a good knowledge of English grammar and spelling. The job entails the reponsibility of going through the weeks' issue and correcting typo's and and other errors. Proficient use of the Macs is helpful, but not necessarily. We are willing to train. This is an excellent opportunity to get on to the Campus production staff on the bottome floor. Our promotion rate is rapid and we are always looking for people who show enough dedication to spend two or three hours a week checking for our stupid mistkes.. If you can fiond all the errors in this add, you are who we are looking for. Please call Paul Gould at ext. 3823 and leave a message. The job starts effective inmediately.

Women's Lives



MARCH is recognized as National Women's History Month and International Woman's Day (8th). In honor of the "51% minority." **the College Store** has assembled a number of popular titles relating to Women's Studies.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

THINGS JUST COULDN'T BE BETTER, JOANIE. WE FOUND SOMEONE PERFECT TO HELP TAKE CARE OF THE BABY— ZONKER!
2-27
ZONKER? MY ONLY GRANDCHILD IS BEING LOOKED AFTER BY ZONKER?
RELAX, HE'S WORKING OUT GREAT! ZONK'S MY BEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD. IF WE CAN'T TRUST HIM, WHO CAN WE TRUST?
GOTTA RUN, GUY! THE KID SHOULD BE WAKING UP...
HEY, WHAT KINDA DOUGH DOES A NANNY PULL DOWN, ANYWAY?
THAT WAS MY MOTHER-IN-LAW. SHE'S APPALLED THAT WE HIRED ZONKER TO HELP WITH THE BABY.
WHY? I'LL BET HE'S GREAT WITH IT!
2-28
HE IS. JOANIE'S PROBLEM IS THAT SHE ONLY REMEMBERS ZONKER FROM A PARTICULAR TIME...
TO HER, IT'S INCONCEIVABLE THAT ZONKER MIGHT HAVE CHANGED, THAT HE MIGHT HAVE TURNED INTO SOMEONE WORTHY OF OUR FULL CONFIDENCE.
ZONKER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M JUST SHOWING HER WHERE THE MOUSE WENT.
SO HOW'D YOU TWO MAKE OUT TODAY?
GREAT! WE HAD A REAL INTERESTING DAY!
3-1
WE GOT IN A CAB TO GO SEE A MOVIE, BUT THE CABBIE DIDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH, SO WE ENDED UP LOST IN BROOKLYN. SO WE PUNTED THE MOVIE, AND TOOK THE SUBWAY TO CONEY ISLAND INSTEAD!
BUT IT WAS FREEZING ON THE BEACH, SO WE CAME HOME JUST IN TIME TO SEE A WATER MAIN BURST ACROSS THE STREET! WE STAYED AND WATCHED UNTIL THE EMERGENCY VEHICLES ARRIVED!
WHAT HAPPENED TO LUNCH, NAP, DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT, PLAY DATE AND BATH?
UM... I FELT WE WERE IN A RUT.
NIGHTY, NIGHT, PUMPKIN!
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT TO TELL YOU...
TODAY SHE CALLED ME "MAMA"! ISN'T THAT WILD? SHE CALLED THE BABY-SITTER "MAMA"!
3-2
ALWAYS A MOMENT EVERY MOTHER TREASURES, ZONK.
WELL, I THOUGHT SO, SO I VIDEOTAPED IT.
YOUR MOTHER CALLED TODAY. SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT OUR CHILD CARE SITUATION.
WHAT DID YOU TELL HER?
3-3
BUZZZ!
I'LL GET IT.
I TOLD HER ABOUT ZONKER.
OH, MICHAEL, YOU DIDN'T!
UH... WHY? SHOULDN'T I HAVE?
I'VE COME FOR MY GRANDCHILD.
MOTHER, IT'S UNDER CONTROL. GO HOME.
HOW COULD YOU HIRE ZONKER TO LOOK AFTER MY NAMELESS GRANDCHILD? HAVE YOU TWO LOST YOUR MINDS?
YOU SHOULD TALK, MOM!
3-4
HOW ABOUT THE SUCCESSION OF PRIZE-WINNERS YOU'VE HAD FOR JEFF? HOW ABOUT HEIDI, THE TEEN-AGE MUTANT WHO TOOK JEFF ON A DATE WITH HER?
J.J., ON HER WORST DAY, HEIDI ISN'T ONE-TENTH AS UNRELIABLE, IRRESPONSIBLE, AND SCATTERBRAINED AS ZONKER IS!
SHE'S TRYING TO GET ME CANNED, ISN'T SHE, MIKE?
WELL, YES, BUT I'M SURE SHE MEANS THOSE THINGS IN A GOOD WAY.

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Students paid to participate in nationwide market research survey. Interested? Call Joanne or Rusty at Campus Dimensions, 1-800-592-2121

PERSONALS

Scruffy the Cat — HAPPY BIRTHDAY 22— thanks for all the late night talks, the Amigo's session, Restaurant Flerent, Syracuse, and especially for being 100% there.

Lil Joe — HAPPY BIRTHDAY "22" You have beautiful hair and beautiful eyes. (Hope you are not offended!)
Your neurotic friend

AIDS, DREGS and BITEWOUND— A fine party indeed! Shall we do it again soon? Only let's keep a closer watch on who gets in! . . . Or out!!!

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Endless thanks to my unmasked anonymous campaign committee!!! It was a ball! —Melanie

Marble Works

(continued from page 10)

move their establishments into the complex, and, according to Kirkaldy, about 50% of the retail spaces have been filled.

The new shopping district would certainly offer an alternative to the Middlebury College community, but their is concern among students that the town does not go too far in its efforts to expand. "Having an easy access shopping district would have its good points," says Sophomore Brian Young, "but I would not want to see Middlebury go overboard with condos and shopping malls, to the point were it would lose some of its small town charm."

But Anderson stresses that the personality of Middlebury would not be harmed. "I am devoted to downtown development, but historical preservation is also very important to me. It must be accepted that Middlebury is no less vulnerable to development than anywhere else, and Marble Works offers a unique opportunity to go about the process."